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(54) **Alteration of fatty acid profiles in plants using dominant negative mutation**

(57)   The preparation and use of nucleic acid fragments encoding fatty acid desaturase enzymes are described. The invention permits alteration of plant lipid composition. Chimeric genes incorporating such nucleic acid fragments with suitable regulatory sequences may be used to create transgenic plants with altered levels of unsaturated fatty acids.

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Description

[0001] The invention relates to the preparation and use of nucleic acid fragments encoding fatty acid desaturase enzymes to modify plant lipid composition. Chimeric genes incorporating such nucleic acid fragments and suitable regulatory sequences may be used to create transgenic plants with altered levels of unsaturated fatty acids.

[0002] Plant lipids have a variety of industrial and nutritional uses and are central to plant membrane function and climatic adaptation. These lipids represent a vast array of chemical structures, and these structures determine the physiological and industrial properties of the lipid. Many of these structures result either directly or indirectly from metabolic processes that alter the degree of unsaturation of the lipid. Different metabolic regimes in different plants produce these altered lipids, and either domestication of exotic plant species or modification of agronomically adapted species is usually required to economically produce large amounts of the desired lipid.

[0003] Plant lipids find their major use as edible oils in the form of triacylglycerols. The specific performance and health attributes of edible oils are determined largely by their fatty acid composition. Most vegetable oils derived from commercial plant varieties are composed primarily of palmitic (16:0), stearic (18:0), oleic (18:1), linoleic (18:2) and linolenic (18:3) acids. Palmitic and stearic acids are, respectively, 16- and 18-carbon-long, saturated fatty acids. Oleic, linoleic, and linolenic acids are 18-carbon-long, unsaturated fatty acids containing one, two, and three double bonds, respectively. Oleic acid is referred to as a mono-unsaturated fatty acid, while linoleic and linolenic acids are referred to as poly-unsaturated fatty acids.

[0004] Many recent research efforts have examined the role that saturated and unsaturated fatty acids play in reducing the risk of coronary heart disease. In the past, it was believed that mono-unsaturates, in contrast to saturates and poly-unsaturates, had no effect on serum cholesterol and coronary heart disease risk. Several recent human clinical studies suggest that diets high in mono-unsaturated fat and low in saturated fat may reduce the "bad" (low-density lipoprotein) cholesterol while maintaining the "good" (high-density lipoprotein) cholesterol (Mattson et al., *Journal of Lipid Research* (1985) 26:194-202).

[0005] A vegetable oil low in total saturates and high in mono-unsaturates would provide significant health benefits to consumers as well as economic benefits to oil processors. For specialized uses, high levels of poly-unsaturates can be desirable. Linoleate and linolenate are essential fatty acids in human diets, and an edible oil high in these fatty acids can be used for nutritional supplements, for example in baby foods.

[0006] The biosynthesis of the major plant lipids has been the focus of much research (Browse et al., *Ann. Rev. Plant Physiol. Mol. Biol.* (1991) 42:467-506). These studies show that, with the notable exception of the soluble stearoylacyl carrier protein desaturase, the controlling steps in the production of unsaturated fatty acids are largely catalyzed by membrane-associated fatty acid desaturases. Desaturation reactions occur in plastids and in the endoplasmic reticulum using a variety of substrates including galactolipids, sulfolipids, and phospholipids. Genetic and physiological analyses of Arabidopsis thaliana nuclear mutants defective in various fatty acid desaturation reactions indicates that most of these reactions are catalyzed by enzymes encoded at single genetic loci in the plant. These investigations have demonstrated the role of delta-12 desaturase and delta-15 desaturase activities in the production of linoleate and linolenate from 2-oleoyl-phosphatidylcholine and 2-linoleoyl-phosphatidylcholine, respectively (Wang et al., *Plant Physiol. Biochem.* (1988) 26:777-792). Thus, modification of the activities of these enzymes represents an attractive target for altering the levels of lipid unsaturation by genetic engineering.

[0007] The cloning and characterization of wild-type delta-12 fatty acid desaturases has been reported (Okuley, et al., *Plant Cell* (1994) 6:147-158). However, there are no teachings concerning plants having seed-specific expression of mutant delta-12 or delta-15 fatty acid desaturase gene products. Furthermore, no methods have been described for altering the fatty acid composition of plants using nucleic acid constructs expressing a mutant delta-12 or a mutant delta-15 fatty acid desaturase.

[0008] Applicants have discovered a means to control the nature and levels of unsaturated fatty acids in plants. Nucleic acid fragments from cDNAs or genes encoding mutant fatty acid desaturases are used to create chimeric genes. The chimeric genes may be used to transform various plants to modify the fatty acid composition of the plant or the oil produced by the plant. The invention comprises nucleic acid constructs containing mutant microsomal delta-12 or mutant microsomal delta-15 fatty acid desaturase coding sequences, which are operably linked in sense orientation to at least one regulatory sequence. Such a construct is effective for altering fatty acid composition of seeds when the construct is introduced into a plant. In one embodiment, a mutant coding sequence for a delta-12 fatty acid desaturase comprises the mutation in the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:8.

[0009] Thus viewed from one aspect the present invention provides a method for altering fatty acid composition in plant seeds, comprising the steps of:

a) introducing a recombinant nucleic acid construct into a plant, said construct comprising at least one seed-specific regulatory sequence operably linked in sense orientation to a mutant delta-12 or delta-15 fatty acid desaturase gene encoding a protein having a mutation in a His-(Asp/Glu)-Cys-(Gly/Ala)-His amino acid region;

b) obtaining progeny from said plant, said progeny producing seeds having said altered fatty acid composition; and

c) producing seeds having said altered fatty acid composition.

[0010] Constructs containing both mutant delta-12 and delta-15 fatty acid desaturase genes may also be used in this
method.

[0011] Depending on the mutant that is introduced, alterations in the linoleic acid content (for example from about
1.0% to about 10%, based on total fatty acid composition), oleic acid content (for example from about 69% to about
90%) or α-linolenic acid (for example from about 1.0% to about 10%) may be achieved.

[0012] Preferably the mutant desaturase gene used in the construct comprises the full-length coding sequence.

[0013] Preferably said mutant gene is derived from a Brassica napus plant.

[0014] Constructs for use in the above method, and mutant fatty acid desaturase proteins form further features of the
invention.

[0015] The invention further comprises seeds, which may be in non-viable form, such as crushed or milled, the meal
derived therefrom, plants, plant lines and plant cells having a recombinant nucleic acid construct containing at least one
regulatory sequence linked in sense orientation to a mutant delta-12 or mutant delta-IS fatty acid desaturase. The
mutant chimeric gene preferentially is expressed in seeds and results in an altered fatty acid composition in seeds of
such plants. A plant expressing a mutant delta-12 desaturase gene preferably has a reduced level of linoleic acid in
seeds. A plant expressing a mutant delta-15 desaturase gene preferably has a reduced level of α-linolenic acid in
seeds. If desired, a plant of the invention may express both a mutant delta-12 and a mutant delta-15 fatty acid desatu-
rase, resulting in the reduction of both linoleic acid and α-linolenic acid in seeds.

[0016] Yet another embodiment of the invention involves a method of producing seed oil containing altered levels of
unsaturated fatty acids comprising: (a) transforming a plant cell with a chimeric gene described above; (b) growing sex-
ually mature plants from the transformed plant cells of step (a); (c) screening progeny seeds from the sexually mature
plants of step (b) for the desired levels of unsaturated fatty acids, and (d) processing the progeny seed of step (c) to
obtain seed oil containing altered levels of the unsaturated fatty acids. Preferred plant cells and oils are derived from
soybean, rapeseed, sunflower, cotton, cocoa, peanut, safflower, coconut, flax, oil palm, and corn. Preferred methods of
transforming such plant cells would include the use of Ti and Ri plasmids of Agrobacterium, electroporation, and high-
velocity ballistic bombardment.

[0017] Yet another aspect of the invention involves a method of producing seeds having altered fatty acid composition.
The method comprises the step of introducing a recombinant nucleic acid construct into a plant (i.e., transforming a
plant). The construct comprises one or more seed-specific regulatory sequences operably linked in sense orientation
to a mutant delta-12 fatty acid desaturase gene or a mutant delta-15 fatty acid desaturase gene. After obtaining trans-
genic progeny, those transformed plants that produce seeds having an altered fatty acid composition are identified.
Suitable plants for transformation include, for example, soybean, rapeseed, sunflower, safflower, castor bean and corn.
Suitable methods of transforming such plants include, for example, Agrobacterium- mediated methods, electroporation,
and microprojectile bombardment.

[0018] The invention also is embodied in a method of RFLP breeding to obtain altered levels of oleic acids in the seed
oil of oil producing plant species. This method involves (a) making a cross between two varieties of oil producing plant
species differing in the oleic acid trait; (b) making a Southern blot of restriction enzyme digested genomic DNA isolated
from several progeny plants resulting from the cross; and (c) hybridizing the Southern blot with the radiolabelled nucleic
acid fragments encoding the mutant fatty acid desaturases or desaturase-related enzymes.

[0019] The invention is also embodied in a method of RFLP mapping that uses the isolated mutant microsomal delta-
12 desaturase cDNA or related genomic fragments described herein.

[0020] Another embodiment of the instant invention is a method of genotyping plants containing either a mutant or
wild-type form of the delta-12 desaturase gene by PCR amplification of genomic DNA using gene-specific primers. This
method is capable of discriminating genes that differ by only one or a few nucleotides, thus affording a means for detect-
ing plants containing the mutant delta-12 desaturase.

[0021] Another aspect of the invention comprises vegetable oil extracted from seeds of plants disclosed herein. Such
a vegetable oil contains an altered fatty acid composition, e.g., a decreased level of α-linolenic acid, a decreased level
of linoleic acid, or an increased level of oleic acid, based on total fatty acid composition.

[0022] The invention can be more fully understood from the following detailed description and the Sequence Descrip-
tions which form a part of this application. The Sequence Descriptions contain the three letter codes for amino acids as
defined in WIPO STANDARD ST.23.

[0023] SEQ ID NO:1 shows the 5' to 3' nucleotide sequence of 1464 base pairs of the Brassica napus cDNA which
encodes the wild type D form of microsomal delta-12 desaturase in plasmid pCF2-165d.

[0024] SEQ ID NO:2 is the 384 amino acid protein sequence deduced from the open reading frame in SEQ ID NO:1.

[0025] SEQ ID NO:3 shows the 5' to 3' cDNA nucleotide sequence of a mutant D form of microsomal delta-12 fatty
acid desaturase from Brassica napus IMC129. Nucleotides 1-3 are the initiation codon and nucleotides 1153-1155 are

the termination codon.

[0026] SEQ ID NO:4 is the 384 amino acid protein sequence deduced from the open reading frame of SEQ ID NO:3.

[0027] SEQ ID NO:5 shows the 5' to 3' cDNA nucleotide sequence of the wild-type F form of microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase in Brassica napus. Nucleotides 1-3 are the initiation codon and nucleotides 1153-1155 are the termination codon.

[0028] SEQ ID NO:6 is the 384 amino acid protein sequence deduced from the open reading frame of SEQ ID NO:5.

[0029] SEQ ID NO:7 shows the 5' to 3' cDNA nucleotide sequence of a mutant F form of microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase from Brassica napus IMC Q508. Nucleotides 1-3 are the initiation codon and nucleotides 1153-1155 are the termination codon.

[0030] SEQ ID NO:8 is the 384 amino acid protein sequence deduced from the open reading frame of SEQ ID NO:7.

[0031] SEQ ID NO:9 is the upstream (5') primer used for isolation of the D form of microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase gene from Brassica napus.

[0032] SEQ ID NO:10 is the downstream (3') primer used for isolation of the D form of microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase gene from Brassica napus.

[0033] SEQ ID NO:11 is the upstream (5') primer used for isolation of the F form of microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase gene in Brassica napus.

[0034] SEQ ID NO:12 is the downstream (3') primer used for isolation of the F form of microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase gene in Brassica napus.

[0035] SEQ ID NO:13 is the upstream (5') primer used for gene-specific detection of the wild type D form of microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase gene in Brassica napus.

[0036] SEQ ID NO:14 is the upstream (5') primer used for gene-specific detection of the mutant D form of microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase gene in Brassica napus.

[0037] SEQ ID NO:15 is the modified upstream (5') primer used for gene-specific detection of the wild type D form of microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase gene in Brassica napus.

[0038] SEQ ID NO:16 is the modified upstream (5') primer used for gene-specific detection of the mutant D form of microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase gene in Brassica napus.

[0039] The Examples herein are given by way of illustration only in which the Figures referred to are as follows:

Figure 1 is a schematic drawing of plasmid pZPhMcFd2, showing restriction sites and relative position and orientation of the bean phaseolin promoter (5' Phas), the IMC129 mutant microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase D form coding sequence (MCFd2) and the bean phaseolin 3' untranslated region (3' Phas).

Figure 2 is a schematic drawing of plasmid pIMC127, showing restriction sites and the relative positions and orientation of the napin promoter (5' nap), the wild-type microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase D form coding sequence (CanFd2) and the napin 3' untranslated region (3' Nap).

Figure 3 shows the frequency distribution of seed oil linoleic acid (C18:2) content in transgenic Brassica T2 populations transformed with either a napin promoter linked in sense orientation to a wild-type microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase D form coding sequence (WS127) or a phaseolin promoter linked to a mutant delta-12 fatty acid desaturase D form (WS201).

Figure 4 shows the frequency distribution of seed oil linoleic acid content in transgenic Brassica T2 populations transformed with either a napin promoter linked in sense orientation to a mutant F form (WS140) delta-12 fatty acid desaturase coding sequence or a cruciferin promoter linked to a wild-type delta-12 fatty acid desaturase D form (WS135).

[0040] Nucleic acid fragments have been isolated that encode mutant plant fatty acid desaturases and that are useful in modifying fatty acid composition in oil-producing species by genetic transformation.

[0041] Transfer of the nucleic acid fragments of the invention or a part thereof, along with suitable regulatory sequences that direct the transcription of their mRNA, into plants may result in production of decreased levels of unsaturated fatty acids in cellular lipids, including triacylglycerols.

[0042] The nucleic acid fragments of the invention can also be used as DNA diagnostic markers in plant genetic mapping and plant breeding programs.

[0043] The nucleic acid fragments of the invention or oligomers derived therefrom can also be used to isolate other related fatty acid desaturase genes using DNA, RNA, or a library of cloned nucleotide sequences from the same or different species by well known sequence-dependent protocols, including, for example, methods of nucleic acid hybridization and amplification by the polymerase chain reaction.

[0044] In the context of this disclosure, a number of terms shall be used. Fatty acids are specified by the number of carbon atoms and the number and position of the double bond: the numbers before and after the colon refer to the chain length and the number of double bonds, respectively. The number following the fatty acid designation indicates the position of the double bond from the carboxyl end of the fatty acid with the "c" affix for the cis-configuration of the double

bond. For example, palmitic acid (16:0), stearic acid (18:0), oleic acid (18:1,9c), petroselinic acid (18:1, 6c), linoleic acid (18:2,9c,12c), γ-linolenic acid (18:3, 6c,9c,12c) and α-linolenic acid (18:3, 9c,12c,15c). Unless otherwise specified 18:1, 18:2 and 18:3 refer to oleic, linoleic and linolenic fatty acids. The term "fatty acid desaturase" used herein refers to an enzyme which catalyzes the breakage of a carbon-hydrogen bond and the introduction of a carbon-carbon double bond into a fatty acid molecule. The fatty acid may be free or esterified to another molecule including, but not limited to, acyl-carrier protein, coenzyme A, sterols and the glycerol moiety of glycerolipids. The term "glycerolipid desaturases" used herein refers to a subset of the fatty acid desaturases that act on fatty acyl moieties esterified to a glycerol backbone. "Delta-12 desaturase" refers to a fatty acid desaturase that catalyzes the formation of a double bond between carbon positions 6 and 7 (numbered from the methyl end), (i.e., those that correspond to carbon positions 12 and 13 (numbered from the carbonyl carbon) of an 18 carbon-long fatty acyl chain. "Delta-15 desaturase" refers to a fatty acid desaturase that catalyzes the formation of a double bond between carbon positions 3 and 4 (numbered from the methyl end), (i.e., those that correspond to carbon positions 15 and 16 (numbered from the carbonyl carbon) of an 18 carbon-long fatty acyl chain. Examples of fatty acid desaturases include, but are not limited to, the microsomal delta-12 and delta-15 desaturases that act on phosphatidylcholine lipid substrates; the chloroplastic or plastid delta-12 and delta-15 desaturases that act on phosphatidyl glycerol and galactolipids; and other desaturases that act on such fatty acid substrates such as phospholipids, galactolipids, and sulfolipids. "Microsomal desaturase" refers to the cytoplasmic location of the enzyme, while "chloroplast desaturase" and "plastid desaturase" refer to the plastid location of the enzyme. These fatty acid desaturases may be found in a variety of organisms including, but not limited to, higher plants, diatoms, and various eukaryotic and prokaryotic microorganisms such as fungi and photosynthetic bacteria and algae. The term "homologous fatty acid desaturases" refers to fatty acid desaturases that catalyze the same desaturation on the same lipid substrate. Thus, microsomal delta-15 desaturases, even from different plant species, are homologous fatty acid desaturases. The term "heterologous fatty acid desaturases" refers to fatty acid desaturases that catalyze desaturations at different positions and/or on different lipid substrates. Thus, for example, microsomal delta-12 and delta-15 d saturases, which act on phosphatidylcholine lipids, are heterologous fatty acid desaturases, even when from the same plant. Similarly, microsomal delta-15 desaturase, which acts on phosphatidylcholine lipids, and chloroplast delta-15 desaturase, which acts on galactolipids, are heterologous fatty acid desaturases, even when from the same plant. It should be noted that these fatty acid desaturases have never been isolated and characterized as proteins. Accordingly, the terms such as "delta-12 desaturase" and "delta-15 desaturase" are used as a convenience to describe the proteins encoded by nucleic acid fragments that have been isolated based on the phenotypic effects caused by their disruption. They do not imply any catalytic mechanism. For example, delta-12 desaturase refers to the enzyme that catalyzes the formation of a double bond between carbons 12 and 13 of an 18 carbon fatty acid irrespective of whether it "counts" the carbons from the methyl, carboxyl end, or the first double bond.

[0045] Desaturases which are mutated according to the invention include both naturally-occurring enzymes (produced either naturally or synthetically) and functionally-equivalent derivatives and variants thereof. Such derivatives and variants, which may be related to or derived from native proteins include proteins with variation in the amino acid sequence and/or particular residues in the sequence without significantly affecting the desaturase functionality of the protein (ie. functionally equivalent). Such functionally-equivalent variants or derivatives include natural biological variations (e.g. allelic variants or geographical variants within a species, or variants, such as analogues from different speci s or genera) and derivatives prepared using known techniques. For example, functionally-equivalent proteins may be prepared by chemical peptide synthesis or in recombinant form using known techniques of site-directed mutagenesis, random mutagenesis, or enzymatic cleavage and/or ligation of nucleic acids. Thus for example, alteration by single or multiple substitution, modification, deletion and/or addition of the amino acid sequence is contemplated.

[0046] Appropriate alterations which retain the protein's functionality will be clear to the person skilled in the art. Such alterations include for example conservative substitution of residues, such as for example replacement of a hydrophobic amino acid with a different hydrophobic amino acid, for example glycine, valine, leucine or isoleucine. Similarly, negatively charged residues may be replaced for example in the case of glutamic acid with aspartic acid, or vice versa, and in the case of positively charged residues arginine may be replaced with lysine or vice versa.

[0047] In certain cases modification of amino acids is appropriate and in these case this may be performed pre- or post-translationally. Thus for example, non-natural amino acids may be used in synthesis or modified (e.g. methylation) after translation. Modification includes for example glycosylation, deglycosylation, phosphorylation etc. It will be appreciated that modification of the amino acid sequence pre- or post-translationally will be of limited use for methods of altering fatty acid compositions as described herein which relies on expression of mutant genes. The present invention is however also concerned with novel mutant desaturases themselves which may be modified as described above.

[0048] Preferably the derivatives or variants defined above are substantially similar to desaturases known in the art or described in the present application, ie. the alterations are of a relatively minor nature involving for example conservative substitution and/or singl additions/deletions and/or modification of the amino acids. When reference is made to functionally-equivalent variants of mutant desaturases according to the invention, the alterations described above apply to the non-mutated portions of the sequence.

[0049]   Functionally-equivalent protein "fragments" as used herein refers to portions of the protein, e.g. desaturase which contains at least the domain(s) responsible for the enzymatic activity of the enzyme. When reference is made to fragments of mutant desaturases, the fragment corresponds to the functionally-equivalent fragment of the desaturase as defined above, which has been mutated according to the invention.

[0050]   The term "nucleic acid" refers to a large molecule which can be single-stranded or double-stranded, composed of monomers (nucleotides) containing a sugar, a phosphate and either a purine or pyrimidine. A "nucleic acid fragment" is a fraction of a given nucleic acid molecule. In higher plants, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is the genetic material while ribonucleic acid (RNA) is involved in the transfer of the information in DNA into proteins. A "genome" is the entire body of genetic material contained in each cell of an organism. The term "nucleotide sequence" refers to the sequence of DNA or RNA polymers, which can be single- or double-stranded, optionally containing synthetic, non-natural or altered nucleotide bases capable of incorporation into DNA or RNA polymers. The term "oligomer" refers to short nucleotide sequences, usually up to 100 bases long.

[0051]   From time to time, the term "FAD2" may be used herein as a shorthand notation for a nucleotide sequence encoding a wild type microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase enzyme, and the term "fad2" may be used herein as a shorthand notation for a nucleotide sequence encoding a mutant form of a microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase enzyme.

[0052]   As used herein, the term "homologous to" refers to the relatedness between the nucleotide sequence of two nucleic acid molecules or between the amino acid sequences of two protein molecules. Estimates of such homology are provided by either DNA-DNA or DNA-RNA hybridization under conditions of stringency as is well understood by those skilled in the art (Hames and Higgins, Eds. (1985) Nucleic Acid Hybridisation, IRL Press, Oxford, U.K.); or by the comparison of sequence similarity between two nucleic acids or proteins, such as by the method of Needleman et al. (J. Mol. Biol. (1970) 48:443-453). As used herein, "essentially similar" refers to DNA sequences that may involve base changes that do not cause a change in the encoded amino acid, or which involve base changes which may alter one or more amino acids, but do not affect the functional properties of the protein encoded by the DNA sequence. It is therefore understood that the invention encompasses more than the specific exemplary sequences. Modifications to the sequence, such as deletions, insertions, or substitutions in the sequence which produce silent changes that do not substantially affect the functional properties of the resulting protein molecule are also contemplated.

[0053]   Appropriate nucleic acid sequence variants encoding functionally-equivalent variants of the desaturases or mutant desaturases of the invention include for example substantially homologous sequences, for example displaying at least 50 or 60%, preferably at least 70, 80 or 90% sequence homology. Hybridizing nucleic acid sequences also constitute appropriate variants, for example those which bind under non-stringent conditions (6xSSC/50% formamide at room temperature) and washed under conditions of low stringency (2XSSC, room temperature, more preferably 2XSSC, 42°C) or conditions of higher stringency e.g. 2XSSC, 65°C (where SSC = 0.15M NaCl, 0.015M sodium citrate, pH 7.2), as well as those which, but for the degeneracy of the code, would hybridize under the above-mentioned conditions.

[0054]   Thus, in particular for example, alteration in the gene sequence which reflect the degeneracy of the genetic code, or which results in the production of a chemically equivalent amino acid at a given site, are contemplated; thus, a codon for the amino acid alanine, a hydrophobic amino acid, may be substituted by a codon encoding another hydrophobic amino acid residue such as glycine, valine, leucine, or isoleucine. Similarly, changes which result in substitution of one negatively charged residue for another, such as aspartic acid for glutamic acid, or one positively charged residue for another, such as lysine for arginine, can also be expected to produce a biologically equivalent product. Nucleotide changes which result in alteration of the N-terminal and C-terminal portions of the protein molecule would also not be expected to alter the activity of the protein. Each of the proposed modifications is well within the routine skill in the art, as is determination of retention of biological activity of the encoded products.

[0055]   "Gene" refers to a nucleic acid fragment that encodes a specific protein, including regulatory sequences preceding (5' non-coding) and following (3' non-coding) the coding region. "Fatty acid desaturase gene" refers to a nucleic acid fragment that encodes a protein with fatty acid desaturase activity. "Native" gene refers to an isolated gene with its own regulatory sequences as found in nature. "Chimeric gene" refers to a gene that comprises heterogeneous regulatory and coding sequences not found in nature. "Endogenous" gene refers to the native gene normally found in its natural location in the genome and is not isolated. A "foreign" gene refers to a gene not normally found in the host organism but that is introduced by gene transfer. "Pseudo-gene" refers to a genomic nucleotide sequence that does not encode a functional enzyme. "Mutant gene" refers to a gene comprising one or more nucleotides that have been altered when compared to the wild-type nucleotide sequence, resulting in a change to the amino acid sequence and functional properties of the encoded protein. The mutant genes may be derived from wild-type genes, such as from Brassica napus. However, as indicated herein, gen sequences which may be mutated include any sequences which encode proteins of the desired functionality before mutation. Thus, a "mutation" is a change which occurs in a gene to give rise to an altered form of the gene which differs from th wild-type gene. As those skilled in the art will appreciate such changes can occur due to a deletion, addition, substitution or combination thereof of the nucleic acid sequence.

[0056] Mutant desaturase proteins encoded by said mutant genes exhibit altered functional properties as described herein. Mutations may be made in the proteins at any appropriate site or sites within the protein. Examples of appropriate sites which may be mutated include one or more amino acids in regions which are conserved between different genera and/or species. Examples of appropriate conserved regions in this connection may be found in Table 1. Particularly preferred are mutations in the consensus sequence of delta 12-desaturases and delta-15 desaturases such as in the His-(Asp/Glu)-Cys-(Gly/Ala)-His region. Preferred mutations include, but are not limited to non-conservative substitutions of one or more amino acids. For example, as described herein, a glutamic acid residue may be replaced with a lysine residue and/or a leucine residue may be replaced with a histidine residue.

[0057] "Coding sequence" refers to a DNA sequence that codes for a specific protein and excludes the non-coding sequences. It may constitute an "uninterrupted coding sequence", i.e., lacking an intron or it may include one or more introns bounded by appropriate splice junctions. An "intron" is a nucleotide sequence that is transcribed into a primary transcript but that is removed through cleavage and re-ligation of the RNA within the cell to create a mature mRNA that can be translated into a protein.

[0058] "Initiation codon" and "termination codon" refer to a unit of three adjacent nucleotides in a coding sequence that specifies initiation and chain termination, respectively, of protein synthesis (mRNA translation). "Open reading frame" refers to the coding sequence uninterrupted by introns between initiation and termination codons that encodes an amino acid sequence.

[0059] "RNA transcript" refers to the product resulting from RNA polymerase-catalyzed transcription of a DNA sequence. When the RNA transcript is a perfect complementary copy of the DNA sequence, it is referred to as the primary transcript or it may be a RNA sequence derived from posttranscriptional processing of the primary transcript and is referred to as the mature RNA. "Messenger RNA (mRNA)" refers to the RNA that is without introns and that can be translated into protein by the cell. "cDNA" refers to a double-stranded DNA that is complementary to and derived from mRNA. "Sense" RNA refers to RNA transcript that includes the mRNA. "Antisense RNA" refers to a RNA transcript that is complementary to all or part of a target primary transcript or mRNA and may block the expression of a target gene by interfering with the processing, transport and/or translation of its primary transcript or mRNA. The complementarity of an antisense RNA may be with any part of the specific gene transcript, i.e., at the 5' non-coding sequence, 3' non-coding sequence, introns, or the coding sequence. In addition, as used herein, antisense RNA may contain regions of ribozyme sequences that increase the efficacy of antisense RNA to block gene expression. "Ribozyme" refers to a catalytic RNA and includes sequence-specific endoribonucleases.

[0060] As used herein, "suitable regulatory sequences" refer to nucleotide sequences in native or chimeric genes that are located upstream (5'), within, and/or downstream (3') to the nucleic acid fragments of the invention, which control the expression of the nucleic acid fragments of the invention. The term "expression", as used herein, refers to the transcription and stable accumulation of the sense (mRNA) derived from the nucleic acid fragment(s) of the invention that, in conjunction with the protein apparatus of the cell, results in altered levels of the fatty acid desaturase(s). Expression or overexpression of the gene involves transcription of the gene and translation of the mRNA into precursor or mature fatty acid desaturase proteins. "Altered levels" refers to the production of gene product(s) in transgenic organisms in amounts or proportions that differ from that of normal or non-transformed organisms.

[0061] "Promoter" refers to a DNA sequence in a gene, usually upstream (5') to its coding sequence, which controls the expression of the coding sequence by providing the recognition for RNA polymerase and other factors required for proper transcription. Promoters may also contain DNA sequences that are involved in the binding of protein factors which control the effectiveness of transcription initiation in response to physiological or developmental conditions. It may also contain enhancer elements. An "enhancer" is a DNA sequence which can stimulate promoter activity. It may be an innate element of the promoter or a heterologous element inserted to enhance the level and/or tissue-specificity of a promoter. "Constitutive promoters" refers to those that direct gene expression in all tissues and at all times. "Tissue-specific" or "development-specific" promoters as referred to herein are those that direct gene expression almost exclusively in specific tissues, such as leaves or seeds, or at specific development stages in a tissue, such as in early or late embryogenesis, respectively.

[0062] The "3' non-coding sequences" refers to the DNA sequence portion of a gene that contains a polyadenylation signal and any other regulatory signal capable of affecting mRNA processing or gene expression. The polyadenylation signal is usually characterized by affecting the addition of polyadenylic acid tracts to the 3' end of the mRNA precursor.

[0063] "Transformation" herein refers to the transfer of a foreign gene into the genome of a host organism and its genetically stable inheritance. "Restriction fragment length polymorphism" (RFLP) refers to different sized restriction fragment lengths due to altered nucleotide sequences in or around variant forms of genes. "Molecular breeding" refers to the use of DNA-based diagnostics, such as RFLP, RAPDs, and PCR in breeding. "Fertile" refers to plants that are able to propagate sexually.

[0064] "Plants" refer to photosynthetic organisms, both eukaryotic and prokaryotic, whereas the term "Higher plants" refers to eukaryotic plants. "Oil-producing species" herein refers to plant species which produce and store triacylglycerol in specific organs, primarily in seeds. Such species include soybean (Glycine max), rapeseed and canola (includ-

ing Brassica napus, B. campestris), sunflower (Helianthus annus), cotton (Gossypium hirsutum), corn (Zea mays), cocoa (Theobrama cacao), safflower (Carthamus tinctorius), oil palm (Elaeis guineensis), coconut palm (Cocos nucifera), flax (Linum usitatissimum), (castor (Ricinus communis)) and peanut (Arachis hypogaea). The group also includes non-agronomic species which are useful in developing appropriate expression vectors such as tobacco, rapid cycling Brassica species, and Arabidopsis thaliana, and wild species which may be a source of unique fatty acids.

[0065] "Progeny" includes descendants of a particular plant or plant line, e.g., seeds and plants of F1, F2, F3, and subsequent generations, or seeds and plants of backcrossed populations BC1, BC2, BC3 and subsequent generations.

[0066] "Sequence-dependent protocols" refer to techniques that rely on a nucleotide sequence for their utility. Examples of sequence-dependent protocols include, but are not limited to, the methods of nucleic acid and oligomer hybridization and methods of DNA and RNA amplification such as are exemplified in various uses of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

[0067] Various solutions used in the experimental manipulations are referred to by their common names such as "SSC", "SSPE", "Denhardt's solution", etc. The composition of these solutions may be found by reference to Appendix B of Sambrook, et al. (Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, 2nd ed. (1989), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press).

[0068] WO 94/11516, incorporated herein by reference, describes the isolation and characterization of cDNAs encoding wild-type microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturases from a number of plant species, including Arabidopsis thaliana, Brassica napus, Glycine max, Zea mays and Castor bean. Moreover, that application demonstrates successful alteration of fatty acid content of oils from seeds obtained from transgenic plants expressing sense or antisense mRNAs encoding microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturases.

[0069] Alignments of protein sequences of plant microsomal fatty acid delta-12 desaturases and plant delta-15 desaturases [microsomal and plastid delta-15 desaturases from Arabidopsis and Brassica napus, WO 93/11245] allows identification of amino acid sequences conserved between the different desaturases (Table 1).

TABLE 1

Amino Acid Sequences Conserved Between Plant Microsomal Delta-12 Desaturases and Microsomal and Plastid Delta-15 Desaturases				
Region	Conserved AA Positions in SEQ ID NO:2 of WO94/11516	Consensus Conserved AA Sequence in Δ^{12}Desaturases	Consensus Conserved AA Sequence in Δ^{15}Desaturases	Consensus AA Sequence
A	39-44	AIPPHC	AIPKHC	AIP(P/K)HC
B	86-90	WP(L/I)YW	WPLYW	WP(L/I)YW
C	104-109	AHECGH	GHDCGH	(A/G)H(D/E)CGH
D	130-134	LLVPY	ILVPY	(L/I)LVPY
E	137-142	WKYSHR	WRISHR	W(K/R)(Y/I)SHR
F	140-145	SHRRHH	SHRTHH	SHR(R/T)HH
G	269-274	ITYLQ	VTYLH	(I/V)TYL(Q/H)
H	279-282	LPHY	LPWY	LP(H/W)Y
I	289-294	WL(R/K)GAL	YLRGGL	(W/Y)L(R/K)G(A/G)L
J	296-302	TVDRDYG	TLDRDYG	T(V/L)DRDYG
K	314-321	THVAHHLF	THVIHHLF	THV(A/I)HHLF
L	318-327	HHLFSTMPHY	HHLFPQIPHY	HHLF(S/P)(T/Q)(I/M)PHY

[0070] Table 1 shows twelve regions of conserved amino acid sequences, designated A-L (column 1), whose positions in SEQ ID NO:2 of WO94/11516 are shown in column 2. The consensus sequences for these regions in plant delta-12 fatty acid desaturases and plant delta-15 fatty acid desaturases are shown in columns 3 and 4, respectively; amino acids are shown by standard abbreviations, the underlined amino acids are conserved between the delta-12 and th delta-15 desaturases, and amino acids in brackets represent substitutions found at that position. Th consensus sequence of these regions are shown in column 5. These short conserved amino acids and their relative positions further confirm that the isolated isolated cDNAs encode a fatty acid desaturase.

[0071]   In one embodiment, transgenic plants, plant lines and plant cells according to the invention contain an introduced nucleic acid construct that comprises at least a portion of a mutant delta-12 or delta-15 desaturase coding sequence. Surprisingly, a construct comprising a mutant delta-12 desaturase or delta-15 desaturase coding sequence, operably linked in sense orientation to one or more regulatory sequences, has been found to inhibit the corresponding endogenous fatty acid desaturase activity in plants which contain such a construct. This phenomenon has been termed dominant negative suppression.

[0072]   The basis for the phenomenon of dominant negative suppression is not understood. One possible explanation is that the delta-12 desaturase gene product exists as a dimer *in vivo*. If so, a dimer consisting of the mutant gene product and the wild-type gene product may be non-functional. Regardless of the actual mechanism by which dominant negative suppression operates, the observation that transformation of plants with a mutant delta-12 desaturase gene results in a large proportion of the transgenic progeny having endogenous wild-type enzyme activity inhibited by expression of the mutant gene can be used to advantage. For example, the phenomenon of dominant negative suppression can be used to alter plant desaturase enzyme activity in a tissue-specific manner. The phenomenon may also allow transformation experiments to be carried out in which a higher proportion of the resulting transgenic plants have a desired altered fatty acid profile and allow transgenic plants having desired fatty acid profiles to be more readily obtained.

[0073]   Preferred constructs contain, in addition, at least one regulatory sequence operably linked in the sense orientation to the mutant coding sequence. Regulatory sequences typically do not themselves code for a gene product. Instead, regulatory sequences affect the expression level of the mutant coding sequence.

[0074]   In preferred embodiments, regulatory sequences for dominant negative suppression are tissue-specific, i.e., the mutant desaturase gene product is preferentially expressed in certain plant tissues and expressed at low levels or not at all in the remaining tissues of the plant. Suitable tissue-specific regulatory sequences include those that permit expression preferentially in developing seeds. Seed-specific regulatory sequences preferably stimulate or induce levels of mutant desaturase gene product expression that coincide with the levels of wild-type desaturase gene product expression.

[0075]   Dominant negative suppression plants according to the invention preferably yield seeds containing an altered fatty acid profile. For example, oil obtained from seeds of such plants may have from about 69% to about 90% oleic acid, based on the total fatty acid composition of the seed. Such oil preferably has from about 74% to about 90% oleic acid, more preferably from about 80% to about 90% oleic acid. In some embodiments, oil extracted from seeds produced by plants of the invention may have from about 3% to about 5% saturated fatty acids, based on total fatty acid composition of the seeds. In some embodiments, oil extracted from seeds of the invention may have from about 1% to about 10% linoleic acid, or from about 1% to about 10% α-linolenic acid.

[0076]   After a recombinant nucleic acid construct, comprising a mutant microsomal delta-12 fatty acid desaturase coding sequence operably linked in the sense orientation to one or more regulatory sequences, is introduced into a plant, seeds of transgenic plants are grown and either selfed or outcrossed. Progeny are analyzed to identify those individuals having endogenous wild-type delta-12 fatty acid desaturase activity inhibited by dominant negative suppression as discussed above.

[0077]   Methods similar to those described above are used to make delta-15 desaturase dominant negative suppression constructs, comprising a mutant delta-15 desaturase gene operably linked to at least one regulatory sequence. Transformation of a plant with such a construct will result in dominant negative suppression of endogenous delta-15 desaturase activity in transgenic progeny and in a decreased level of α-linolenic acid in homozygous dominant suppression lines. Such lines will have from about <1% to about 10% α-linolenic acid, preferably from about <1% to about 5%, based on total seed fatty acid composition.

[0078]   In one embodiment of the invention, a plant contains a mutant delta-12 fatty acid desaturase and a mutant delta-15 fatty acid desaturase, both of which are expressed preferentially in seeds. Such a plant can be produced from the cross of single mutant plants, followed by outcrossing or selfing in order to obtain progeny seeds carrying both mutant chimeric genes. Progeny seeds are screened in order to identify those seeds carrying both mutant genes. Alternatively, seed-specific defects in delta-12 desaturase and delta-15 desaturase may be introduced into a wild-type plant by transformation, simultaneously or sequentially, with one or more dominant negative suppression constructs for delta-12 desaturase and delta-15 desaturase, each driven by suitable regulatory sequences. Other similar methods to construct double mutant plants will be recognized by those of skill in the art.

[0079]   Double mutant plants can have more extreme fatty acid profiles in seeds than the single mutant plants, e.g., the double mutant phenotype can result in significantly lower levels of α-linolenic acid in seeds than the single mutant delta-15 desaturase plant phenotype. Thus, by combining seed-specific inhibition of microsomal delta-12 desaturase with seed-specific inhibition of microsomal delta-15 desaturase, one can obtain levels of seed α-linolenic acid that are as low or lower than those in a single mutant without adversely affecting desirable properties. The decreased levels of α-linolenic acid in the double homozygotes may be associated with increased levels of oleic acid and decreased levels of saturates and linoleic acid.

[0080]   A preferred class of heterologous hosts for the expression of the nucleic acid fragments of the invention are eukaryotic hosts, particularly the cells of higher plants. Particularly preferred among the higher plants are the oil-producing species, such as soybean (Glycine max), rapeseed (including Brassica napus, B. campestris), sunflower (Helianthus annus), cotton (Gossypium hirsutum), corn (Zea mays), cocoa (Theobroma cacao), safflower (Carthamus tinctorius), oil palm (Elaeis guineensis), coconut palm (Cocos nucifera), flax (Linum usitatissimum), and peanut (Arachis hypogaea).

[0081]   Expression in plants will use regulatory sequences functional in such plants. The expression of foreign genes in plants is well-established (De Blaere et al., Meth. Enzymol. (1987) 153:277-291). The source of the promoter chosen to drive the expression of the fragments of the invention is not critical provided it has sufficient transcriptional activity to accomplish the invention by increasing or decreasing, respectively, the level of translatable mRNA for the fatty acid desaturases in the desired host tissue. Preferred promoters include (a) strong constitutive plant promoters, such as those directing the 19S and 35S transcripts in cauliflower mosaic virus (Odell et al., Nature (1985) 313:810-812; Hull et al., Virology (1987) 86:482-493),(b) tissue- or developmentally-specific promoters, and (c) other transcriptional promoter systems engineered in plants, such as those using bacteriophage T7 RNA polymerase promoter sequences to express foreign genes. Examples of tissue-specific promoters are the light-inducible promoter of the small subunit of ribulose 1,5-bis-phosphate carboxylase (if expression is desired in photosynthetic tissues), the maize zein protein promoter (Matzke et al., EMBO J. (1984) 3:1525-1532), and the chlorophyll a/b binding protein promoter (Lampa et al., Nature (1986) 316:750-752).

[0082]   Particularly preferred promoters are those that allow seed-specific expression. This may be especially useful since seeds are the primary source of vegetable oils and also since seed-specific expression will avoid any potential deleterious effect in non-seed tissues. Examples of seed-specific promoters include, but are not limited to, the promoters of seed storage proteins, which can represent up to 90% of total seed protein in many plants. The seed storage proteins are strictly regulated, being expressed almost exclusively in seeds in a highly tissue-specific and stage-specific manner (Higgins et al., Ann. Rev. Plant Physiol. (1984) 35:191-221; Goldberg et al., Cell (1989) 56:149-160). Moreover, different seed storage proteins may be expressed at different stages of seed development.

[0083]   Expression of seed-specific genes has been studied in great detail (See reviews by Goldberg et al., Cell (1989) 56:149-160 and Higgins et al., Ann. Rev. Plant Physiol. (1984) 35:191-221). There are currently numerous examples of seed-specific expression of seed storage protein genes in transgenic dicotyledonous plants. These include genes from dicotyledonous plants for bean β-phaseolin (Sengupta-Gopalan et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA (1985) 82:3320-3324; Hoffman et al., Plant Mol. Biol. (1988) 11:717-729), bean lectin (Voelker et al., EMBO J. (1987) 6:3571-3577), soybean lectin (Okamuro et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA (1986) 83:8240-8244), soybean Kunitz trypsin inhibitor (Perez-Grau et al., Plant Cell (1989) 1:095-1109), soybean β-conglycinin (Beachy et al., EMBO J. (1985) 4:3047-3053; pea vicilin (Higgins et al., Plant Mol. Biol. (1988) 11:683-695), pea convicilin (Newbigin et al., Planta (1990) 180:461-470), pea legumin (Shirsat et al., Mol. Gen. Genetics (1989) 215:326-331); rapeseed napin (Radke et al., Theor. Appl. Genet. (1988) 75:685-694) as well as genes from monocotyledonous plants such as for maize 15 kD zein (Hoffman et al., EMBO J. (1987) 6:3213-3221), maize 18 kD oleosin (Lee et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA (1991) 888:6181-6185), barley β-hordein (Marris et al., Plant Mol. Biol. (1988) 10:359-366) and wheat glutenin (Colot et al., EMBO J. (1987) 6:3559-3564). Moreover, promoters of seed-specific genes operably linked to heterologous coding sequences in chimeric gene constructs also maintain their temporal and spatial expression pattern in transgenic plants. Such examples include use of Arabidopsis thaliana 2S seed storage protein gene promoter to express enkephalin peptides in Arabidopsis and B. napus seeds (Vandekerckhove et al., Bio/Technology (1989) 7:929-932), bean lectin and bean β-phaseolin promoters to express luciferase (Riggs et al., Plant Sci. (1989) 63:47-57), and wheat glutenin promoters to express chloramphenicol acetyl transferase (Colot et al., EMBO J. (1987) 6:3559-3564).

[0084]   Of particular use in the expression of the nucleic acid fragment of the invention will be the heterologous promoters from several soybean seed storage protein genes such as those for the Kunitz trypsin inhibitor (Jofuku et al., Plant Cell (1989) 1:1079-1093; glycinin (Nielson et al., Plant Cell (1989) 1:313-328), and β-conglycinin (Harada et al., Plant Cell (1989) 1:415-425). Promoters of genes for α- and β-subunits of soybean β-conglycinin storage protein will be particularly useful in expressing the mRNA or the antisense RNA in the cotyledons at mid- to late-stages of seed development (Beachy et al., EMBO J. (1985) 4:3047-3053) in transgenic plants. This is because there is very little position effect on their expression in transgenic seeds, and the two promoters show different temporal regulation. The promoter for the α-subunit gene is expressed a few days before that for the β-subunit gene. This is important for transforming rapeseed where oil biosynthesis begins about a week before seed storage protein synthesis (Murphy et al., J. Plant Physiol. (1989) 135:63-69).

[0085]   Also of particular use will be promoters of genes expressed during early embryogenesis and oil biosynthesis. The native regulatory sequences, including the native promoters, of the fatty acid desaturase genes expressing the nucleic acid fragments of the invention can be used following their isolation by those skilled in the art. Heterologous promoters from other genes involved in seed oil biosynthesis, such as those for B. napus isocitrate lyase and malate synthase (Comai et al., Plant Cell (1989) 1:293-300), delta-9 desaturase from safflower (Thompson et al. Proc. Natl. Acad.

Sci. USA (1991) 88:2578-2582) and castor (Shanklin et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* USA (1991) 88:2510-2514), acyl carrier protein (ACP) from Arabidopsis (Post-Beittenmiller et al., *Nucl. Acids Res.* (1989) 17:1777), B. napus (Safford et al., *Eur. J. Biochem.* (1988) 174:287-295), and B. campestris (Rose et al., *Nucl. Acids Res.* (1987) 15:7197), β-ketoacyl-ACP synthetase from barley (Siggaard-Andersen et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* USA (1991) 88:4114-4118), and oleosin from Zea mays (Lee et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* USA (1991) 88:6181-6185), soybean (Genbank Accession No: X60773) and B. napus (Lee et al., *Plant Physiol.* (1991) 96:1395-1397) will be of use. If the sequence of the corresponding genes is not disclosed or their promoter region is not identified, one skilled in the art can use the published sequence to isolate the corresponding gene and a fragment thereof containing the promoter. The partial protein sequences for the relatively-abundant enoyl-ACP reductase and acetyl-CoA carboxylase are also published (Slabas et al., *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* (1987) 877:271-280; Cottingham et al., *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* (1988) 954:201-207) and one skilled in the art can use these sequences to isolate the corresponding seed genes with their promoters. Similarly, the fragments of the present invention encoding fatty acid desaturases can be used to obtain promoter regions of the corresponding genes for use in expressing chimeric genes.

[0086]   Attaining the proper level of expression of the nucleic acid fragments of the invention may require the use of different chimeric genes utilizing different promoters. Such chimeric genes can be transferred into host plants either together in a single expression vector or sequentially using more than one vector.

[0087]   It is envisioned that the introduction of enhancers or enhancer-like elements into the promoter regions of either the native or chimeric nucleic acid fragments of the invention will result in increased expression to accomplish the invention. This would include viral enhancers such as that found in the 35S promoter (Odell et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* (1988) 10:263-272), enhancers from the opine genes (Fromm et al., *Plant Cell* (1989) 1:977-984), or enhancers from any other source that result in increased transcription when placed into a promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid fragment of the invention.

[0088]   Of particular importance is the DNA sequence element isolated from the gene for the α-subunit of β-conglycinin that can confer 40-fold seed-specific enhancement to a constitutive promoter (Chen et al., *Dev. Genet.* (1989) 10:112-122). One skilled in the art can readily isolate this element and insert it within the promoter region of any gene in order to obtain seed-specific enhanced expression with the promoter in transgenic plants. Insertion of such an element in any seed-specific gene that is expressed at different times than the β-conglycinin gene will result in expression in transgenic plants for a longer period during seed development.

[0089]   The invention can also be accomplished by a variety of other methods to obtain the desired end. In one form, the invention is based on modifying plants to produce increased levels of mutant fatty acid desaturases by virtue of introducing more than one copy of the foreign gene containing the nucleic acid fragments of the invention. In some cases, the desired level of polyunsaturated fatty acids may require introduction of foreign genes for more than one kind of mutant fatty acid desaturase.

[0090]   Any 3' non-coding region capable of providing a polyadenylation signal and other regulatory sequences that may be required for the proper expression of the nucleic acid fragments of the invention can be used to accomplish the invention. This would include 3' ends of the native fatty acid desaturase(s), viral genes such as from the 35S or the 19S cauliflower mosaic virus transcripts, from the opine synthesis genes, ribulose 1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase, or chlorophyll a/b binding protein. There are numerous examples in the art that teach the usefulness of different 3' non-coding regions.

[0091]   Various methods of transforming cells of higher plants according to the present invention are available to those skilled in the art (see EPO Pub. 0 295 959 A2 and 0 318 341 A1). Such methods include those based on transformation vectors utilizing the Ti and Ri plasmids of Agrobacterium spp. It is particularly preferred to use the binary type of these vectors. Ti-derived vectors transform a wide variety of higher plants, including monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants (Sukhapinda et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* (1987) 8:209-216; Potrykus, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* (1985) 199:183). Other transformation methods are available to those skilled in the art, such as direct uptake of foreign DNA constructs (see EPO Pub. 0 295 959 A2), techniques of electroporation (Fromm et al., *Nature* (1986) (London) 319:791) or high-velocity ballistic bombardment with metal particles coated with the nucleic acid constructs (Kline et al., *Nature* (1987) (London) 327:70). Once transformed, the cells can be regenerated by those skilled in the art.

[0092]   Of particular relevance are the recently described methods to transform foreign genes into commercially important crops, such as rapeseed (De Block et al., *Plant Physiol.* (1989) 91:694-701), sunflower (Everett et al., *Bio/Technology* (1987) 5:1201), and soybean (Christou et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci* USA (1989) 86:7500-7504.

[0093]   The use of restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) markers in plant breeding has been well-documented in the art (Tanksley et al., *Bio/Technology* (1989) 7:257-264). Thus, the nucleic acid fragments of the invention can be used as molecular markers for traits associated with mutant fatty acid desaturases. These traits will include altered levels of unsaturated fatty acids. The nucleic acid fragment of the invention can also be used to isolate the fatty acid desaturase gene from other mutant plants with altered levels of unsaturated fatty acids. Sequencing of these genes will reveal nucleotide differences that cause the alteration in levels of unsaturated fatty acids. Oligonucleotides designed around thes differences may also be used in plant breeding as diagnostic markers to follow fatty acid variation. In one

embodiment, oligonucleotides based on differences between wt and mutant Δ12 des may be used as molecular markers in breeding canola lines with variant oil profiles.

EXAMPLES

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[0094] The present invention is further defined in the following Examples, in which all parts and percentages are by weight and degrees are Celsius, unless otherwise stated. It should be understood that these Examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only. From the above discussion and these Examples, one skilled in the art can ascertain the essential characteristics of this invention, and without departing from
10 the spirit and scope thereof, can make various changes and modifications of the invention to adapt it to various usages and conditions. All publications, including patents and non-patent literature, referred to in this specification are expressly incorporated by reference herein.

EXAMPLE 1

15

SEQUENCES OF MUTANT DELTA-12 FATTY ACID DESATURASES FROM B. NAPUS

[0095] Primers specific for the FAD2 structural gene were used to clone the entire open reading frame (ORF) of the D and F forms of the gene by reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). The sequences of the primers
20 used for isolation of the D form ORF of B. napus FAD2 gene are

  5'-CATGGGTGCAGGTGGAAGAATGC-3'   (SEQ ID NO: 9); and
  5'-GTTTCTTCTTTGCTTCATAAC-3'   (SEQ ID NO: 10).

25 [0096] The sequences of the primers used to clone the F form ORF of B. napus FAD2 gene are

  5'-CATGGGTGCAGGTGGAAGAATGC-3'   (SEQ ID NO: 11); and
  5'-TCTTTCACCATCATCATATCC-3'   (SEQ ID NO: 12).

30 RNA from seeds of three lines, IMC129, Q508 and Westar, was isolated by an acid guanidinium thiocyanate-phenol-chloroform extraction method (Chomczynski and Sacchi, 1987; *Analytical Biochemistry* 162, 156-159, 1987). The total RNA was used as a template for reverse transcription and PCR amplification by RNA PCR kit (Perkin Elmer). The RT-PCR amplified fragments were cloned into pGEM-T vector (Promega), and then used for nucleotide sequence determination. The DNA sequence of each gene from each line was determined from both strands by dideoxy sequencing by
35 Sanger et al. (Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 74, 5463-5467).
[0097] The D gene of IMC129 contained a G to A transversion at nucleotide 316 (from the translation initiation codon) of the D gene in IMC129 (SEQ ID NO:3), compared to the sequence of Westar. The transversion changes the codon at this position from GAG to AAG and results in a substitution of glutamic acid by lysine. The same base change was also detected in IMC129 when RNA from leaf tissue was used as template. The G to A mutation at nucleotide 316 was con-
40 firmed by sequencing several independent clones containing fragments amplified directly from genomic DNA of IMC129. These results eliminated the possibility of a rare mutation introduced during reverse transcription and PCR in the RT-PCR protocol. The mutation in the D form of delta-12 desaturase in IMC129 mapped to a conserved region of cloned delta-12 and delta-15 membrane bound-desaturases (Table 2).
[0098] The sequence of the F form of delta-12 desaturase in IMC129 was the same as the F form of delta-12 desat-
45 urase in Westar (SEQ ID NO:5).
[0099] For Q508, the sequence of the D form of delta-12 desaturase (SEQ ID NO:3) was the same as the D form of the IMC129 gene. This was expected, as Q508 was derived by mutagenesis of IMC129.
[0100] Sequence analysis of the Q508 F form of delta-12 desaturase revealed a T to A transition at nucleotide 515 (SEQ ID NO:7), compared to the wild-type Westar sequence. This mutation results in a change from a CTC codon to a
50 CAC codon, substituting a histidine residue for the wild-type leucine residue.

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TABLE 2

Alignment of Amino Acid Sequences of Cloned Canola Membrane Bound-Desaturases		
Desaturase Gene	Sequence[a]	Position[b]
Canola-FAD2-D	HE<u>C</u><u>G</u>H	110
Canola-FAD2-F	HE<u>C</u><u>G</u>H	110
Canola FAD6[c]	H<u>D</u>C<u>A</u>H	171
Canola-FAD3[d]	H<u>D</u>C<u>G</u>H	97
Canola-FAD7[e]	H<u>D</u>C<u>G</u>H	126

[a]One letter amino acid code; conservative sub-
stitutions are underlined
[b]Position in gene product of first amino acid
[c]FAD6 = Plastid delta-12
[d]FAD3 = Microsomal delta-15
[e]FAD7 = Plastid delta-15

EXAMPLE 2

GENE-SPECIFIC OLIGONUCLEOTIDE MARKERS FOR THE MUTANT AND WILD TYPE DELTA-12 FATTY ACID DESATURASE GENES

[0101]   The D form of IMC129 fad2 gene contains a G to A transversion at nucleotide 316 from the translation initiation codon. Two short oligonucleotide upstream (5') primers, based on the single base change (G to A) between the D form of the IMC129 and wild type FAD2 genes, were designed. The sequences of the upstream (5') primers are as follows:

5' gene-specific primer for wild type FAD2-D:
5'-GTCTGGGTCATAGCCCACG-3'   (SEQ ID NO:13); and
5' gene-specific primer for IMC129 fad2-d:
5'-GTCTGGGTCATAGCCCACA-3'   (SEQ ID NO:14).

A common downstream (3') primer (SEQ ID NO: 10) specific for the D form of the FAD2 gene was used for both IMC129 and wild type FAD2 genes. These gene-specific primers were used in a DNA based PCR diagnostic assay to genotype plants carrying the mutant and/or wild type FAD2 genes.

[0102]   Genomic DNA was isolated from leaf tissue of IMC129 and Westar plants, and used as PCR templates. The PCR amplification assays were carried out by using a gene amplification kit (Perkin Elmer). The PCR conditions are as follows: denaturing temperature, 95°C for 1 min; annealing temperature, 52°C for 1 min; amplification temperature 72°C for 1 min. Total 20 PCR cycles were extended. Under these conditions primers SEQ ID NO:13 and SEQ ID NO:14 only amplified wild type FAD2-D and IMC 129 mutant fad2-d gene fragments, respectively.

[0103]   The specificity of the gene-specific primers could be further improved by shortening the length of the primers and by replacing the base C with a T at the second position from the 3' end of the oligonucleotide PCR primer for FAD2-D (SEQ ID NO:13). The sequences of the modified upstream (5') oligonucleotide PCR primers are as follows:

5' modified gene-specific primer for wild type FAD2-D:
5'-CTGGGTCATAGCCCATG-3'   (SEQ ID NO:15); and
5' modified gene-specific primer for IMC129 fad2-d:
5'-CTGGGTCATAGCCCACA-3'   (SEQ ID NO:16).

The same common downstream (3') oligonucleotide primer (SEQ ID NO:10) was used for amplifying FAD2-D and fad2-d. with the modified primers, the genotype for FAD2-D and fad2-d could be consistently distinguished after extended 30 cycle of PCR amplification. Therefore, the DNA based PCR assay provided a simple and reliable method of genotypping B. Napus germplasms containing mutant and/or wild type FAD2 genes.

EXAMPLE 3

CONSTRUCTS FOR DOMINANT NEGATIVE SUPPRESSION OF DELTA-12 FATTY ACID DESATURASE

[0104] The vector pZS212 was used to construct plasmids for dominant negative suppression experiments. One construct was prepared by inserting the full-length mutant D gene coding sequence (nucleotides 1 to 1155 of SEQ ID NO:3) in sense orientation between the phaseolin promoter and phaseolin 3' poly A region of plasmid pCW108. The pCW108 vector contains the bean phaseolin promoter and 3' untranslated region and was derived from the commercially available pUC18 plasmid (Gibco-BRL) via plasmids AS3 and pCW104. Plasmid AS3 contains 495 base pairs of the bean (Phaseolus vulgaris) phaseolin (7S seed storage protein) promoter starting with 5'-TGGTCTTTTGGT-3' followed by the entire 1175 base pairs of the 3' untranslated region of the same gene (see sequence descriptions in Doyle et al., (1986) J. Biol. Chem. 261:9228-9238 and Slightom et al.,(1983) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 80:1897-1901. Further sequence description may be found in WO 9113993) cloned into the Hind III site of pUC18. The additional cloning sites of the pUC18 multiple cloning region (Eco RI, Sph I, Pst I and Sal I) were removed by digesting with Eco RI and Sal I, filling in the ends with Klenow and religating to yield the plasmid pCW104. A new multiple cloning site was created between the 495bp of the 5' phaseolin and the 1175bp of the 3' phaseolin by inserting a dimer of complementary synthetic oligonucleotides consisting of the coding sequence for a Nco I site (5'-CCATGG-3') followed by three filler bases (5'-TAG-3'), the coding sequence for a Sma I site (5'-CCCGGG-3'), the last three bases of a Kpn I site (5'-TAG-3'), a cytosine and the coding sequence for an Xba I site (5'-TCTAGA-3') to create the plasmid pCW108. This plasmid contains unique Nco I, Sma I, Kpn I and Xba I sites directly behind the phaseolin promoter.

[0105]   The resulting 5'-phaseolin promoter-mutant fad2-phaseolin poly A-3' construct was excised and cloned between the EcoRI/SalI sites of pZS212, resulting in the plasmid designated pZPhMCFd2 (Figure 1). pZS212 is based on a vector which contains: (1) the chimeric gene nopaline synthase/neomycin phosphotransferase as a selectable marker for transformed plant cells (Brevan et al. (1984) Nature 304: 184-186), (2) the left and right borders of the T-DNA of the Ti plasmid (Brevan et al. (1984) Nucl. Acids Res. 12:8711-8720), (3) the E. coli lacZ α-complementing segment (Vieria and Messing (1982) Gene 19:259-267) with unique restriction endonuclease sites for Eco RI, Kpn I, Bam HI, and Sal I, (4) the bacterial replication origin from the Pseudomonas plasmid pVS1 (Itoh et al. (1984) Plasmid 11:206-220), and (5) the bacterial neomycin phosphotransferase gene from Tn5 (Berg et al. (1975) Proc. Natnl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 72:3628-3632) as a selectable marker for transformed A. tumefaciens. The nopaline synthase promoter in the plant selectable marker was replaced by the 35S promoter (Odell et al. (1985) Nature, 313:810-813) by a standard restriction endonuclease digestion and ligation strategy.

[0106]   A second plasmid was constructed by inserting the full-length wild type canola D gene coding sequence (nucleotides 130 to 1281 of SEQ ID NO:1) into the NotI site of the canola napin promoter expression vector pIMC401 which contains a 2.2 kb napin expression cassette.

[0107]   The canola napin promoter expression cassette in pIMC401 was constructed as follows: ten oligonucleotide primers were synthesized based upon the nucleotide sequence of napin lambda clone CGN1-2 published in European Patent Application EP 255378). The oligonucleotide sequences were:

- BR42 and BR43 corresponding to bases 1132 to 1156 (BR42) and the complement of bases 2248 to 2271 (BR43) of the sequence listed in Figure 2 of EP 255378.

- BR45 and BR46 corresponding to bases 1150 to 1170 (BR46) and the complement of bases 2120 to 2155 (BR45) of the sequence listed in Figure 2 of EP 255378. In addition BR46 had bases corresponding to a Sal I site (5'-GTC-GAC-3') and a few additional bases (5'-TCAGGCCT-3') at its 5' end and BR45 had bases corresponding to a Bgl II site (5'-AGATCT-3') and two (5'-CT-3') additional bases at the 5' end of the primer.

- BR47 and BR48 corresponding to bases 2705 to 2723 (BR47) and bases 2643 to 2666 (BR48) of the sequence listed in Figure 2 of EP 255378. In addition BR47 had two (5'-CT-3') additional bases at the 5' end of the primer followed by bases corresponding to a Bgl II site (5'-AGATCT-3') followed by a few additional bases (5'-TCAGGCCT-3').

- BR49 and BR50 corresponding to the complement of bases 3877 to 3897 (BR49) and the complement of bases 3985 to 3919 (BR50) of the sequence listed in Figure 2 of EP 255378. In addition BR49 had bases corresponding to a Sal I site (5'-GTCGAC-3') and a few additional bases (5'-TCAGGCCT-3') at its 5' end.

- BR57 and BR58 corresponding to the complement of bases 3875 to 3888 (BR57) and bases 2700 to 2714 (BR58) of the sequence listed in Figure 2 of EP 255378. In addition the 5' end of BR57 had some extra bases (5'-CCATGG-3') followed by bases corresponding to a Sac I site (5'-GAGCTC-3') followed by more additional bases (5'-GTC-GACGAGG-3'). The 5' end of BR58 had additional bases (5'-GAGCTC-3') followed by bases corresponding to a Nco I site (5'-CCATGG-3') followed by additional bases (5'-AGATCTGGTACC-3').

- BR61 and BR62 corresponding to bases 1846 to 1865 (BR61) and bases 2094 to 2114 (BR62) of the sequence listed in Figure 2 of EP 255378. In addition the 5' end of BR 62 had additional bases (5'-GACA-3') followed by bases corresponding to a Bgl II site (5'-AGATCT-3') followed by a few additional bases (5'-GCGGCCGC-3').

[0108] Genomic DNA from the canola variety 'Hyola401' (Zeneca Seeds) was used as a template for PCR amplification of the napin promoter and napin terminator regions. The promoter was first amplified using primers BR42 and BR43, and reamplified using primers BR45 and BR46. Plasmid pIMC01 was derived by digestion of the 1.0 kb promoter PCR product with SalI/BglII and ligation into SalI/BamHI digested pBluescript SK⁺ (Stratagene). The napin terminator region was amplified using primers BR48 and BR50, and reamplified using primers BR47 and BR49. Plasmid pIMC06 was derived by digestion of the 1.2 kb terminator PCR product with SalI/BglII and ligation into SalI/BglII digested pSP72 (Promega). Using pIMC06 as a template, the terminator region was reamplified by PCR using primer BR57 and primer BR58. Plasmid pIMC101 containing both the napin promoter and terminator was generated by digestion of the PCR product with SacI/NcoI and ligation into SacI/NcoI digested pIMC01. Plasmid pIMC101 contains a 2.2 kb napin expression cassette including complete napin 5' and 3' non-translated sequences and an introduced NcoI site at the translation start ATG. Primer BR61 and primer BR62 were used to PCR amplify an ~270 bp fragment from the 3' end of the napin promoter. Plasmid pIMC401 was obtained by digestion of the resultant PCR product with EcoRI/BglII and ligation into EcoRI/BglII digested pIMC101. Plasmid pIMC401 contains a 2.2 kb napin expression cassette lacking the napin 5' non-translated sequence and includes a NotI site at the transcription start.

[0109] The fragment containing the 5'-napin-fad2D-napin poly A-3' cassette was then inserted into the SalI site of pZS212, and the resulting 17.2 Kb plasmid was termed pIMC127 (Figure 2).

[0110] A third plasmid, pIMC135, was constructed in a manner similar to that described above for pIMC127. Plasmid pIMC135 contains a 5' cruciferin promoter fragment operably linked in sense orientation to the full-length wild-type coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, followed by a cruciferin 3' poly A fragment.

[0111] A fourth plasmid, pIMC140 was constructed in a manner similar to that described above. Plasmid pIMC140 contains a 5' napin promoter fragment operably linked in sense orientation to the full-length mutant Q508 F gene coding sequence (SEQ ID NO:7), followed by a 3' napin poly A fragment.

EXAMPLE 4

FATTY ACID PROFILES IN DOMINANT NEGATIVE SUPPRESSION PLANTS

[0112] The plasmids pZPhMCFd2, pIMC127, pIMC135 and pIMC140 were transferred by a freeze/thaw method (Holsters et al. (1978) Mol Gen Genet 163:181-187) to the Agrobacterium strain LBA4404/pAL4404 (Hoekema et al. (1983), Nature 303:179-180).

[0113] Brassica napus cultivar "Westar" was transformed by co-cultivation of seedling pieces with disarmed Agrobacterium tumefaciens strain LBA4404 carrying the appropriate binary vector.

[0114] B. napus seeds were sterilized by stirring in 10% Chlorox, 0.1% SDS for thirty min, and then rinsed thoroughly with sterile distilled water. The seeds were germinated on sterile medium containing 30 mM $CaCl_2$ and 1.5% agar, and grown for six days in the dark at 24°C.

[0115] Liquid cultures of Agrobacterium for plant transformation were grown overnight at 28°C in Minimal A medium containing 100 mg/L kanamycin.

Minimal A Bacterial Growth Medium

[0116] Dissolve in distilled water:

    10.5 grams potassium phosphate, dibasic
    4.5 grams potassium phosphate, monobasic
    1.0 gram ammonium sulfate
    0.5 gram sodium citrate, dihydrate
    Make up to 979 mL with distilled water
    Autoclave
    Add 20 mL filter-sterilized 10% sucrose
    Add 1 mL filter-sterilized 1 M $MgSO_4$

[0117] The bacterial cells were pelleted by centrifugation and resuspended at a concentration of 10^8 cells/mL in liquid Murashige and Skoog Minimal Organic medium (GIBCO; Cat. No. 510-3118) containing 100 µM acetosyringone.

[0118] B. napus seedling hypocotyls were cut into 5 mm segments which were immediately placed into the bacterial suspension. After 30 min, the hypocotyl pieces were removed from the bacterial suspension and placed onto BC-35 callus medium containing 100 µM acetosyringone.

Brassica Callus Medium BC-35

[0119]   Per liter:

Murashige and Skoog Minimal Organic Medium (MS salts, 100 mg/L i-inositol, 0.4 mg/L thiamine; GIBCO #510-3118)
30 grams sucrose
18 grams mannitol
0.5 mg/L 2,4-D
0.3 mg/L kinetin
0.6% agarose
pH 5.8

The plant tissue and Agrobacteria were co-cultivated for three days at 24°C in dim light.
[0120]   The co-cultivation was terminated by transferring the hypocotyl pieces to BC-35 callus medium containing 200 mg/L carbenicillin to kill the Agrobacteria, and 25 mg/L kanamycin to select for transformed plant cell growth. The seedling pieces were incubated on this medium for three weeks at 28°C under continuous light.
[0121]   After four weeks, the segments were transferred to BS-48 regeneration medium containing 200 mg/L carbenicillin and 25 mg/L kanamycin.

Brassica Regeneration Medium BS-48

[0122]

Murashige and Skoog Minimal Organic Medium
Gamborg B5 Vitamins (SIGMA #1019)
10 grams glucose
250 mg xylose
600 mg MES
0.4% agarose
pH 5.7
Filter-sterilize and add after autoclaving:

2.0 mg/L zeatin
0.1 mg/L IAA

[0123]   Plant tissue was subcultured every two weeks onto fresh selective regeneration medium, under the same culture conditions described for the callus medium. Putatively transformed calli grew rapidly on regeneration medium; as calli reached a diameter of about 2 mm, they were removed from the hypocotyl pieces and placed on the same medium lacking kanamycin.
[0124]   Shoots began to appear within several weeks after transfer to BS-48 regeneration medium. As soon as the shoots formed discernable stems, they were excised from the calli, transferred to MSV-1A elongation medium, and moved to a 16:8 h photoperiod at 24°C.

Brassica Shoot Elongation Medium MSV-1A

[0125]

Murashige and Skoog Minimal Organic Medium
Gamborg B5 Vitamins
10 grams sucrose
0.6% agarose
pH 5.8

[0126]   Once shoots had elongated several internodes, they were cut above the agar surface and th   cut ends were dipped in Rootone. Treated shoots were planted directly into wet Metro-Mix 350 soiless potting medium. The pots were covered with plastic bags which were removed when the plants wer   clearly growing -- after about ten days.
[0127]   Plants were grown under a 16:8 h photoperiod, with a daytime temperature of 23°C and a nighttime tempera-

ture of 17°C. When the primary flowering stem began to elongate, it was covered with a mesh pollen-containment bag to prevent outcrossing. Self-pollination was facilitated by shaking the plants several times each day.

[0128]   Transgenic progeny plants containing pZPhMCFd2 were designated as the WS201 series. Plants transformed with pIMC127 were designated as the WS127 series. Plants transformed with pIMC135 were designated as the WS135 series. Plants transformed with pIMC140 were designated as the WS140 series. Seeds were obtained by selfing the T1 plants. Fatty acid profiles of the T2 seeds were determined as described in WO 93/11245. The results are shown in Tables 3 and 4 and Figures 3 and 4.

TABLE 3

T2 Seeds having Decreased C18:2 (WS201[1] Transformants)[2].						
		Fatty Acid Composition(%)				
Line No.	Plant Series	C16:0	C18:0	C18:1	C18:2	C18:3
T300236	WS201	4.1	3.2	72.5	10.6	6.5
T300238	WS201	3.9	2.7	74.4	9.2	6.6
T300390	WS201	4.2	2.5	75.4	9.3	5.4
T300273	WS201	3.9	2.8	77.4	7.5	5.3
T300400	WS201	3.9	2.5	78.6	6.6	5.3
T300354	WS201	4.0	2.7	78.6	6.4	4.51

[1] WS201: phaseolin promoter/IMC129 mutant, sense orientation.
[2] Population of 168 selfed individuals from greenhouse.

[0129]   As shown in Figure 3, a large proportion of the control WS127 plants have elevated levels of linoleic acid. This result is expected, since the delta-12 desaturase gene dosage is higher due to the extra copy of the wild-type delta-12 desaturase gene. A small proportion of WS127 plants show lower levels of linoleic acid, due to cosuppression.

[0130]   In contrast, no WS201 plants had elevated levels of linoleic acid. This result confirms that the mutant delta-12 desaturase D form gene in WS201 plants is non-functional. Furthermore, a higher proportion of WS201 plants have decreased C18:2 (5-14%) compared to the proportion of WS127 control plants having decreased C18:2. The proportion of WS201 plants having decreased C18:2 is about 25-fold higher than the proportion of WS127 plants having decreased C18:2. The surprising inhibition of endogenous delta-12 desaturase activity by a mutant delta-12 gene product has been termed dominant negative suppression.

[0131]   The fatty acid composition of seeds produced by representative dominant negative suppression T2 WS201 plants is shown in Table 3. The plants show an altered fatty acid composition, including decreased C18:2, increased C18:1, and decreased saturates.

[0132]   A T2 generation plant is not homozygous for the introduced gene. Consequently, T3 and subsequent generations that are homozygous for the mutant delta-12 desaturase gene will have even lower levels of linoleic acid, from about 1% to about 10%, preferably from about 1% to about 6%. Levels of oleic acid in homozygous lines will be from 75% to about 88%, preferably from about 80% to about 88%.

[0133]   The results observed with WS140 plants (containing a mutant Q508 F form delta-12 desaturase gene) are shown in Figure 4. None of the WS140 plants have elevated C18:2 levels, similar to the results obtained with WS201 transgenic plants. As expected, a large proportion of the control WS135 plants have elevated C18:2 levels. The proportion of WS140 and WS135 plants having decreased C18:2 levels is similar, indicating that expression of this particular mutant delta-12 desaturase gene product does not inhibit endogenous wild-type delta-12 desaturase gene product to an extent greater than that expected from cosuppression. The fatty acid composition of seeds produced by a representative T2 WS140 plant with decreased C18:2 levels is shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4

T2 Seed Having Decreased C18:2 (WS140[1] Transformants)[2].						
		Fatty Acid Composition (%)				
Line No.	Vector	C16:0	C18:0	C18:1	C18:2	C18:3
T300435	pIMC140	3.8	3.5	73.7	9.7	6.11

[1] WS140: napin promoter/Q508 fad2 F mutation, sense orientation
[2] Population of 61 selfed individuals from greenhouse

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

    (i) APPLICANT:
        (A) NAME: E.I. Du Pont De Nemours and Company
        (B) STREET: 1007 Market Street
        (C) CITY: Wilmington
        (D) STATE: Delaware
        (E) COUNTRY: USA
        (F) POSTAL CODE (ZIP): 19898

    (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Process

    (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 16

    (iv) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
        (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
        (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
        (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
        (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30 (EPO)

(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

    (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
        (A)   LENGTH: 1464 base pairs
        (B)   TYPE: nucleic acid
        (C)   STRANDEDNESS: single
        (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

    (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

    (ix)   FEATURE:
        (A)   NAME/KEY: CDS
        (B)   LOCATION: 130..1281

    (xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

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GGCACGAGCT CGTGCCGAAT TCGGCACGAG AGGAGACAGA GAGAGAGTTT GAGGAGGAGC      60

TTCTTCGTAG GGTTCATCGT TATTAACGTT AAATCTTCAT CCCCCCCTAC GTCAGCCAGC     120

TCAAGAAAC ATG GGT GCA GGT GGA AGA ATG CAA GTG TCT CCT CCC TCC         168
           Met Gly Ala Gly Gly Arg Met Gln Val Ser Pro Pro Ser
            1               5                   10

AAA AAG TCT GAA ACC GAC AAC ATC AAG CGC GTA CCC TGC GAG ACA CCG       216
Lys Lys Ser Glu Thr Asp Asn Ile Lys Arg Val Pro Cys Glu Thr Pro
     15                  20                  25

CCC TTC ACT GTC GGA GAA CTC AAG AAA GCA ATC CCA CCG CAC TGT TTC       264
Pro Phe Thr Val Gly Glu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ile Pro Pro His Cys Phe
     30                  35                  40                  45
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AAA CGC TCG ATC CCT CGC TCT TTC TCC TAC CTC ATC TGG GAC ATC ATC        312
Lys Arg Ser Ile Pro Arg Ser Phe Ser Tyr Leu Ile Trp Asp Ile Ile
             50                  55                  60

ATA GCC TCC TGC TTC TAC TAC GTC GCC ACC ACT TAC TTC CCT CTC CTC        360
Ile Ala Ser Cys Phe Tyr Tyr Val Ala Thr Thr Tyr Phe Pro Leu Leu
                 65                  70                  75

CCT CAC CCT CTC TCC TAC TTC GCC TGG CCT CTC TAC TGG GCC TGC CAG        408
Pro His Pro Leu Ser Tyr Phe Ala Trp Pro Leu Tyr Trp Ala Cys Gln
             80                  85                  90

GGC TGC GTC CTA ACC GGC GTC TGG GTC ATA GCC CAC GAG TGC GGC CAC        456
Gly Cys Val Leu Thr Gly Val Trp Val Ile Ala His Glu Cys Gly His
         95                  100                 105

CAC GCC TTC AGC GAC TAC CAG TGG CTG GAC GAC ACC GTC GGC CTC ATC        504
His Ala Phe Ser Asp Tyr Gln Trp Leu Asp Asp Thr Val Gly Leu Ile
110                 115                 120                 125

TTC CAC TCC TTC CTC CTC GTC CCT TAC TTC TCC TGG AAG TAC AGT CAT        552
Phe His Ser Phe Leu Leu Val Pro Tyr Phe Ser Trp Lys Tyr Ser His
                 130                 135                 140

CGA CGC CAC CAT TCC AAC ACT GGC TCC CTC GAG AGA GAC GAA GTG TTT        600
Arg Arg His His Ser Asn Thr Gly Ser Leu Glu Arg Asp Glu Val Phe
                 145                 150                 155

GTC CCC AAG AAG AAG TCA GAC ATC AAG TGG TAC GGC AAG TAC CTC AAC        648
Val Pro Lys Lys Lys Ser Asp Ile Lys Trp Tyr Gly Lys Tyr Leu Asn
         160                 165                 170

AAC CCT TTG GGA CGC ACC GTG ATG TTA ACG GTT CAG TTC ACT CTC GGC        696
Asn Pro Leu Gly Arg Thr Val Met Leu Thr Val Gln Phe Thr Leu Gly
         175                 180                 185

TGG CCT TTG TAC TTA GCC TTC AAC GTC TCG GGG AGA CCT TAC GAC GGC        744
Trp Pro Leu Tyr Leu Ala Phe Asn Val Ser Gly Arg Pro Tyr Asp Gly
190                 195                 200                 205

GGC TTC GCT TGC CAT TTC CAC CCC AAC GCT CCC ATC TAC AAC GAC CGT        792
Gly Phe Ala Cys His Phe His Pro Asn Ala Pro Ile Tyr Asn Asp Arg
                 210                 215                 220

GAG CGT CTC CAG ATA TAC ATC TCC GAC GCT GGC ATC CTC GCC GTC TGC        840
Glu Arg Leu Gln Ile Tyr Ile Ser Asp Ala Gly Ile Leu Ala Val Cys
             225                 230                 235

TAC GGT CTC TAC CGC TAC GCT GCT GTC CAA GGA GTT GCC TCG ATG GTC        888
Tyr Gly Leu Tyr Arg Tyr Ala Ala Val Gln Gly Val Ala Ser Met Val
         240                 245                 250

TGC TTC TAC GGA GTT CCT CTT CTG ATT GTC AAC GGG TTC TTA GTT TTG        936
Cys Phe Tyr Gly Val Pro Leu Leu Ile Val Asn Gly Phe Leu Val Leu
         255                 260                 265
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ATC ACT TAC TTG CAG CAC ACG CAT CCT TCC CTG CCT CAC TAT GAC TCG     984
Ile Thr Tyr Leu Gln His Thr His Pro Ser Leu Pro His Tyr Asp Ser
270             275             280             285

TCT GAG TGG GAT TGG TTG AGG GGA GCT TTG GCC ACC GTT GAC AGA GAC    1032
Ser Glu Trp Asp Trp Leu Arg Gly Ala Leu Ala Thr Val Asp Arg Asp
                290             295             300

TAC GGA ATC TTG AAC AAG GTC TTC CAC AAT ATC ACG GAC ACG CAC GTG    1080
Tyr Gly Ile Leu Asn Lys Val Phe His Asn Ile Thr Asp Thr His Val
                305             310             315

GCG CAT CAC CTG TTC TCG ACC ATG CCG CAT TAT CAT GCG ATG GAA GCT    1128
Ala His His Leu Phe Ser Thr Met Pro His Tyr His Ala Met Glu Ala
            320             325             330

ACG AAG GCG ATA AAG CCG ATA CTG GGA GAG TAT TAT CAG TTC GAT GGG    1176
Thr Lys Ala Ile Lys Pro Ile Leu Gly Glu Tyr Tyr Gln Phe Asp Gly
            335             340             345

ACG CCG GTG GTT AAG GCG ATG TGG AGG GAG GCG AAG GAG TGT ATC TAT    1224
Thr Pro Val Val Lys Ala Met Trp Arg Glu Ala Lys Glu Cys Ile Tyr
350             355             360             365

GTG GAA CCG GAC AGG CAA GGT GAG AAG AAA GGT GTG TTC TGG TAC AAC    1272
Val Glu Pro Asp Arg Gln Gly Glu Lys Lys Gly Val Phe Trp Tyr Asn
                370             375             380

AAT AAG TTA TGAAGCAAAG AAGAAACTGA ACCTTTCTCT TCTATGATTG           1321
Asn Lys Leu

TCTTTGTTTA AGAAGCTATG TTTCTGTTTC AATAATCTTA ATTATCCATT TTGTTGTGTT  1381

TTCTGACATT TTGGCTAAAA TTATGTGATG TTGGAAGTTA GTGTCTAAAA AAAAAAAAAA  1441

AAAAAAAAAA AAAAAAAAAA AAA                                          1464
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(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

   (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
      (A)   LENGTH: 384 amino acids
      (B)   TYPE: amino acid
      (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

   (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: protein

   (xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

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Met Gly Ala Gly Gly Arg Met Gln Val Ser Pro Pro Ser Lys Lys Ser
  1           5                   10                  15

Glu Thr Asp Asn Ile Lys Arg Val Pro Cys Glu Thr Pro Pro Phe Thr
            20                  25                  30

Val Gly Glu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ile Pro Pro His Cys Phe Lys Arg Ser
        35                  40                  45
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Ile Pro Arg Ser Phe Ser Tyr Leu Ile Trp Asp Ile Ile Ile Ala Ser
     50   55   60

Cys Phe Tyr Tyr Val Ala Thr Thr Tyr Phe Pro Leu Leu Pro His Pro
  65   70   75   80

Leu Ser Tyr Phe Ala Trp Pro Leu Tyr Trp Ala Cys Gln Gly Cys Val
          85   90   95

Leu Thr Gly Val Trp Val Ile Ala His Glu Cys Gly His His Ala Phe
        100   105   110

Ser Asp Tyr Gln Trp Leu Asp Asp Thr Val Gly Leu Ile Phe His Ser
        115   120   125

Phe Leu Leu Val Pro Tyr Phe Ser Trp Lys Tyr Ser His Arg Arg His
  130   135   140

His Ser Asn Thr Gly Ser Leu Glu Arg Asp Glu Val Phe Val Pro Lys
145   150   155   160

Lys Lys Ser Asp Ile Lys Trp Tyr Gly Lys Tyr Leu Asn Asn Pro Leu
        165   170   175

Gly Arg Thr Val Met Leu Thr Val Gln Phe Thr Leu Gly Trp Pro Leu
        180   185   190

Tyr Leu Ala Phe Asn Val Ser Gly Arg Pro Tyr Asp Gly Gly Phe Ala
      195   200   205

Cys His Phe His Pro Asn Ala Pro Ile Tyr Asn Asp Arg Glu Arg Leu
  210   215   220

Gln Ile Tyr Ile Ser Asp Ala Gly Ile Leu Ala Val Cys Tyr Gly Leu
225   230   235   240

Tyr Arg Tyr Ala Ala Val Gln Gly Val Ala Ser Met Val Cys Phe Tyr
        245   250   255

Gly Val Pro Leu Leu Ile Val Asn Gly Phe Leu Val Leu Ile Thr Tyr
        260   265   270

Leu Gln His Thr His Pro Ser Leu Pro His Tyr Asp Ser Ser Glu Trp
      275   280   285

Asp Trp Leu Arg Gly Ala Leu Ala Thr Val Asp Arg Asp Tyr Gly Ile
    290   295   300

Leu Asn Lys Val Phe His Asn Ile Thr Asp Thr His Val Ala His His
305   310   315   320

Leu Phe Ser Thr Met Pro His Tyr His Ala Met Glu Ala Thr Lys Ala
        325   330   335

Ile Lys Pro Ile Leu Gly Glu Tyr Tyr Gln Phe Asp Gly Thr Pro Val
      340   345   350

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Val Lys Ala Met Trp Arg Glu Ala Lys Glu Cys Ile Tyr Val Glu Pro
        355             360             365
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Asp Arg Gln Gly Glu Lys Lys Gly Val Phe Trp Tyr Asn Asn Lys Leu
    370             375             380
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(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

   (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
       (A)   LENGTH: 1155 base pairs
       (B)   TYPE: nucleic acid
       (C)   STRANDEDNESS: single
       (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

   (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

   (iii)   HYPOTHETICAL: NO

   (iv)   ANTI-SENSE: NO

   (vi)   ORIGINAL SOURCE:
       (A)   ORGANISM: Brassica napus

   (vii)   IMMEDIATE SOURCE:
       (B)   CLONE: IMC129

   (ix)   FEATURE:
       (D)   OTHER INFORMATION: G to A transversion
                        mutation at nucleotide 316
                        of the D form

   (xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

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ATG GGT GCA GGT GGA AGA ATG CAA GTG TCT CCT CCC TCC AAA AAG TCT     48
Met Gly Ala Gly Gly Arg Met Gln Val Ser Pro Pro Ser Lys Lys Ser
 1               5                  10                  15
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```
GAA ACC GAC AAC ATC AAG CGC GTA CCC TGC GAG ACA CCG CCC TTC ACT     96
Glu Thr Asp Asn Ile Lys Arg Val Pro Cys Glu Thr Pro Pro Phe Thr
            20                  25                  30
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GTC GGA GAA CTC AAG AAA GCA ATC CCA CCG CAC TGT TTC AAA CGC TCG    144
Val Gly Glu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ile Pro Pro His Cys Phe Lys Arg Ser
            35                  40                  45
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```
ATC CCT CGC TCT TTC TCC TAC CTC ATC TGG GAC ATC ATC ATA GCC TCC    192
Ile Pro Arg Ser Phe Ser Tyr Leu Ile Trp Asp Ile Ile Ile Ala Ser
        50                  55                  60
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```
TGC TTC TAC TAC GTC GCC ACC ACT TAC TTC CCT CTC CTC CCT CAC CCT    240
Cys Phe Tyr Tyr Val Ala Thr Thr Tyr Phe Pro Leu Leu Pro His Pro
 65                  70                  75                  80
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```
CTC TCC TAC TTC GCC TGG CCT CTC TAC TGG GCC TGC CAG GGC TGC GTC    288
Leu Ser Tyr Phe Ala Trp Pro Leu Tyr Trp Ala Cys Gln Gly Cys Val
                85                  90                  95
```

```
CTA ACC GGC GTC TGG GTC ATA GCC CAC AAG TGC GGC CAC CAC GCC TTC       336
Leu Thr Gly Val Trp Val Ile Ala His Lys Cys Gly His His Ala Phe
        100               105               110

AGC GAC TAC CAG TGG CTG GAC GAC ACC GTC GGC CTC ATC TTC CAC TCC       384
Ser Asp Tyr Gln Trp Leu Asp Asp Thr Val Gly Leu Ile Phe His Ser
        115               120               125

TTC CTC CTC GTC CCT TAC TTC TCC TGG AAG TAC AGT CAT CGA CGC CAC       432
Phe Leu Leu Val Pro Tyr Phe Ser Trp Lys Tyr Ser His Arg Arg His
        130               135               140

CAT TCC AAC ACT GGC TCC CTC GAG AGA GAC GAA GTG TTT GTC CCC AAG       480
His Ser Asn Thr Gly Ser Leu Glu Arg Asp Glu Val Phe Val Pro Lys
145               150               155               160

AAG AAG TCA GAC ATC AAG TGG TAC GGC AAG TAC CTC AAC AAC CCT TTG       528
Lys Lys Ser Asp Ile Lys Trp Tyr Gly Lys Tyr Leu Asn Asn Pro Leu
                165               170               175

GGA CGC ACC GTG ATG TTA ACG GTT CAG TTC ACT CTC GGC TGG CCT TTG       576
Gly Arg Thr Val Met Leu Thr Val Gln Phe Thr Leu Gly Trp Pro Leu
        180               185               190

TAC TTA GCC TTC AAC GTC TCG GGG AGA CCT TAC GAC GGC GGC TTC GCT       624
Tyr Leu Ala Phe Asn Val Ser Gly Arg Pro Tyr Asp Gly Gly Phe Ala
        195               200               205

TGC CAT TTC CAC CCC AAC GCT CCC ATC TAC AAC GAC CGC GAG CGT CTC       672
Cys His Phe His Pro Asn Ala Pro Ile Tyr Asn Asp Arg Glu Arg Leu
        210               215               220

CAG ATA TAC ATC TCC GAC GCT GGC ATC CTC GCC GTC TGC TAC GGT CTC       720
Gln Ile Tyr Ile Ser Asp Ala Gly Ile Leu Ala Val Cys Tyr Gly Leu
225               230               235               240

TAC CGC TAC GCT GCT GTC CAA GGA GTT GCC TCG ATG GTC TGC TTC TAC       768
Tyr Arg Tyr Ala Ala Val Gln Gly Val Ala Ser Met Val Cys Phe Tyr
                245               250               255

GGA GTT CCG CTT CTG ATT GTC AAT GGG TTC TTA GTT TTG ATC ACT TAC       816
Gly Val Pro Leu Leu Ile Val Asn Gly Phe Leu Val Leu Ile Thr Tyr
                260               265               270

TTG CAG CAC ACG CAT CCT TCC CTG CCT CAC TAT GAC TCG TCT GAG TGG       864
Leu Gln His Thr His Pro Ser Leu Pro His Tyr Asp Ser Ser Glu Trp
        275               280               285

GAT TGG TTG AGG GGA GCT TTG GCC ACC GTT GAC AGA GAC TAC GGA ATC       912
Asp Trp Leu Arg Gly Ala Leu Ala Thr Val Asp Arg Asp Tyr Gly Ile
        290               295               300

TTG AAC AAG GTC TTC CAC AAT ATC ACG GAC ACG CAC GTG GCG CAT CAC       960
Leu Asn Lys Val Phe His Asn Ile Thr Asp Thr His Val Ala His His
305               310               315               320
```

```
CTG TTC TCG ACC ATG CCG CAT TAT CAT GCG ATG GAA GCT ACG AAG GCG    1008
Leu Phe Ser Thr Met Pro His Tyr His Ala Met Glu Ala Thr Lys Ala
            325             330             335

ATA AAG CCG ATA CTG GGA GAG TAT TAT CAG TTC GAT GGG ACG CCG GTG    1056
Ile Lys Pro Ile Leu Gly Glu Tyr Tyr Gln Phe Asp Gly Thr Pro Val
            340             345             350

GTT AAG GCG ATG TGG AGG GAG GCG AAG GAG TGT ATC TAT GTG GAA CCG    1104
Val Lys Ala Met Trp Arg Glu Ala Lys Glu Cys Ile Tyr Val Glu Pro
            355             360             365

GAC AGG CAA GGT GAG AAG AAA GGT GTG TTC TGG TAC AAC AAT AAG TTA T  1153
Asp Arg Gln Gly Glu Lys Lys Gly Val Phe Trp Tyr Asn Asn Lys Leu
        370             375             380

GA                                                                 1155
```

(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

    (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
        (A)   LENGTH: 384 amino acids
        (B)   TYPE: amino acid
        (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

    (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: protein

    (xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

```
Met Gly Ala Gly Gly Arg Met Gln Val Ser Pro Pro Ser Lys Lys Ser
 1               5               10              15

Glu Thr Asp Asn Ile Lys Arg Val Pro Cys Glu Thr Pro Pro Phe Thr
            20              25              30

Val Gly Glu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ile Pro Pro His Cys Phe Lys Arg Ser
        35              40              45

Ile Pro Arg Ser Phe Ser Tyr Leu Ile Trp Asp Ile Ile Ile Ala Ser
    50              55              60

Cys Phe Tyr Tyr Val Ala Thr Thr Tyr Phe Pro Leu Leu Pro His Pro
65              70              75               80

Leu Ser Tyr Phe Ala Trp Pro Leu Tyr Trp Ala Cys Gln Gly Cys Val
            85              90              95

Leu Thr Gly Val Trp Val Ile Ala His Lys Cys Gly His His Ala Phe
            100             105             110

Ser Asp Tyr Gln Trp Leu Asp Asp Thr Val Gly Leu Ile Phe His Ser
        115             120             125

Phe Leu Leu Val Pro Tyr Phe Ser Trp Lys Tyr Ser His Arg Arg His
    130             135             140
```

```
His Ser Asn Thr Gly Ser Leu Glu Arg Asp Glu Val Phe Val Pro Lys
145           150           155             160

Lys Lys Ser Asp Ile Lys Trp Tyr Gly Lys Tyr Leu Asn Asn Pro Leu
              165           170           175

Gly Arg Thr Val Met Leu Thr Val Gln Phe Thr Leu Gly Trp Pro Leu
              180           185           190

Tyr Leu Ala Phe Asn Val Ser Gly Arg Pro Tyr Asp Gly Gly Phe Ala
          195           200           205

Cys His Phe His Pro Asn Ala Pro Ile Tyr Asn Asp Arg Glu Arg Leu
          210           215           220

Gln Ile Tyr Ile Ser Asp Ala Gly Ile Leu Ala Val Cys Tyr Gly Leu
225           230           235             240

Tyr Arg Tyr Ala Ala Val Gln Gly Val Ala Ser Met Val Cys Phe Tyr
              245           250           255

Gly Val Pro Leu Leu Ile Val Asn Gly Phe Leu Val Leu Ile Thr Tyr
              260           265           270

Leu Gln His Thr His Pro Ser Leu Pro His Tyr Asp Ser Ser Glu Trp
          275           280           285

Asp Trp Leu Arg Gly Ala Leu Ala Thr Val Asp Arg Asp Tyr Gly Ile
          290           295           300

Leu Asn Lys Val Phe His Asn Ile Thr Asp Thr His Val Ala His His
305           310           315             320

Leu Phe Ser Thr Met Pro His Tyr His Ala Met Glu Ala Thr Lys Ala
              325           330           335

Ile Lys Pro Ile Leu Gly Glu Tyr Tyr Gln Phe Asp Gly Thr Pro Val
              340           345           350

Val Lys Ala Met Trp Arg Glu Ala Lys Glu Cys Ile Tyr Val Glu Pro
          355           360           365

Asp Arg Gln Gly Glu Lys Lys Gly Val Phe Trp Tyr Asn Asn Lys Leu
          370           375           380
```

(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

  (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
    (A) LENGTH: 1155 base pairs
    (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
    (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
    (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

  (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

  (xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

```
ATG GGT GCA GGT GGA AGA ATG CAA GTG TCT CCT CCC TCC AAG AAG TCT        48
Met Gly Ala Gly Gly Arg Met Gln Val Ser Pro Pro Ser Lys Lys Ser
 1               5               10              15

GAA ACC GAC ACC ATC AAG CGC GTA CCC TGC GAG ACA CCG CCC TTC ACT        96
Glu Thr Asp Thr Ile Lys Arg Val Pro Cys Glu Thr Pro Pro Phe Thr
                20                  25              30

GTC GGA GAA CTC AAG AAA GCA ATC CCA CCG CAC TGT TTC AAA CGC TCG       144
Val Gly Glu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ile Pro Pro His Cys Phe Lys Arg Ser
            35                  40              45

ATC CCT CGC TCT TTC TCC TAC CTC ATC TGG GAC ATC ATC ATA GCC TCC       192
Ile Pro Arg Ser Phe Ser Tyr Leu Ile Trp Asp Ile Ile Ile Ala Ser
        50                  55              60

TGC TTC TAC TAC GTC GCC ACC ACT TAC TTC CCT CTC CTC CCT CAC CCT       240
Cys Phe Tyr Tyr Val Ala Thr Thr Tyr Phe Pro Leu Leu Pro His Pro
65                  70                  75                  80

CTC TCC TAC TTC GCC TGG CCT CTC TAC TGG GCC TGC CAA GGG TGC GTC       288
Leu Ser Tyr Phe Ala Trp Pro Leu Tyr Trp Ala Cys Gln Gly Cys Val
                85                  90                  95

CTA ACC GGC GTC TGG GTC ATA GCC CAC GAG TGC GGC CAC CAC GCC TTC       336
Leu Thr Gly Val Trp Val Ile Ala His Glu Cys Gly His His Ala Phe
                100                 105                 110

AGC GAC TAC CAG TGG CTT GAC GAC ACC GTC GGT CTC ATC TTC CAC TCC       384
Ser Asp Tyr Gln Trp Leu Asp Asp Thr Val Gly Leu Ile Phe His Ser
            115                 120                 125

TTC CTC CTC GTC CCT TAC TTC TCC TGG AAG TAC AGT CAT CGC AGC CAC       432
Phe Leu Leu Val Pro Tyr Phe Ser Trp Lys Tyr Ser His Arg Ser His
        130                 135                 140

CAT TCC AAC ACT GGC TCC CTC GAG AGA GAC GAA GTG TTT GTC CCC AAG       480
His Ser Asn Thr Gly Ser Leu Glu Arg Asp Glu Val Phe Val Pro Lys
145                 150                 155                 160

AAG AAG TCA GAC ATC AAG TGG TAC GGC AAG TAC CTC AAC AAC CCT TTG       528
Lys Lys Ser Asp Ile Lys Trp Tyr Gly Lys Tyr Leu Asn Asn Pro Leu
                165                 170                 175
```

```
GGA CGC ACC GTG ATG TTA ACG GTT CAG TTC ACT CTC GGC TGG CCG TTG      576
Gly Arg Thr Val Met Leu Thr Val Gln Phe Thr Leu Gly Trp Pro Leu
            180                     185                 190

TAC TTA GCC TTC AAC GTC TCG GGA AGA CCT TAC GAC GGC GGC TTC CGT      624
Tyr Leu Ala Phe Asn Val Ser Gly Arg Pro Tyr Asp Gly Gly Phe Arg
            195                     200                 205

TGC CAT TTC CAC CCC AAC GCT CCC ATC TAC AAC GAC CGC GAG CGT CTC      672
Cys His Phe His Pro Asn Ala Pro Ile Tyr Asn Asp Arg Glu Arg Leu
            210                     215                 220

CAG ATA TAC ATC TCC GAC GCT GGC ATC CTC GCC GTC TGC TAC GGT CTC      720
Gln Ile Tyr Ile Ser Asp Ala Gly Ile Leu Ala Val Cys Tyr Gly Leu
225                     230                 235                 240

TTC CGT TAC GCC GCC GGC CAG GGA GTG GCC TCG ATG GTC TGC TTC TAC      768
Phe Arg Tyr Ala Ala Gly Gln Gly Val Ala Ser Met Val Cys Phe Tyr
                245                     250                 255

GGA GTC CCG CTT CTG ATT GTC AAT GGT TTC CTC GTG TTG ATC ACT TAC      816
Gly Val Pro Leu Leu Ile Val Asn Gly Phe Leu Val Leu Ile Thr Tyr
            260                     265                 270

TTG CAG CAC ACG CAT CCT TCC CTG CCT CAC TAC GAT TCG TCC GAG TGG      864
Leu Gln His Thr His Pro Ser Leu Pro His Tyr Asp Ser Ser Glu Trp
            275                     280                 285

GAT TGG TTC AGG GGA GCT TTG GCT ACC GTT GAC AGA GAC TAC GGA ATC      912
Asp Trp Phe Arg Gly Ala Leu Ala Thr Val Asp Arg Asp Tyr Gly Ile
            290                     295                 300

TTG AAC AAG GTC TTC CAC AAT ATT ACC GAC ACG CAC GTG GCC CAT CAT      960
Leu Asn Lys Val Phe His Asn Ile Thr Asp Thr His Val Ala His His
305                     310                 315                 320

CCG TTC TCC ACG ATG CCG CAT TAT CAC GCG ATG GAA GCT ACC AAG GCG     1008
Pro Phe Ser Thr Met Pro His Tyr His Ala Met Glu Ala Thr Lys Ala
                325                     330                 335

ATA AAG CCG ATA CTG GGA GAG TAT TAT CAG TTC GAT GGG ACG CCG GTG     1056
Ile Lys Pro Ile Leu Gly Glu Tyr Tyr Gln Phe Asp Gly Thr Pro Val
            340                     345                 350

GTT AAG GCG ATG TGG AGG GAG GCG AAG GAG TGT ATC TAT GTG GAA CCG     1104
Val Lys Ala Met Trp Arg Glu Ala Lys Glu Cys Ile Tyr Val Glu Pro
            355                     360                 365

GAC AGG CAA GGT GAG AAG AAA GGT GTG TTC TGG TAC AAC AAT AAG TTA T   1153
Asp Arg Gln Gly Glu Lys Lys Gly Val Phe Trp Tyr Asn Asn Lys Leu
            370                     375                 380

GA                                                                  1155
```

28

(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

    (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
           (A)   LENGTH: 384 amino acids
           (B)   TYPE: amino acid
           (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

    (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: protein

    (xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

Met Gly Ala Gly Gly Arg Met Gln Val Ser Pro Pro Ser Lys Lys Ser
 1   5   10   15

Glu Thr Asp Thr Ile Lys Arg Val Pro Cys Glu Thr Pro Pro Phe Thr
             20   25   30

Val Gly Glu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ile Pro Pro His Cys Phe Lys Arg Ser
         35   40   45

Ile Pro Arg Ser Phe Ser Tyr Leu Ile Trp Asp Ile Ile Ile Ala Ser
     50   55   60

Cys Phe Tyr Tyr Val Ala Thr Thr Tyr Phe Pro Leu Leu Pro His Pro
65   70   75   80

Leu Ser Tyr Phe Ala Trp Pro Leu Tyr Trp Ala Cys Gln Gly Cys Val
                 85   90   95

Leu Thr Gly Val Trp Val Ile Ala His Glu Cys Gly His His Ala Phe
             100   105   110

Ser Asp Tyr Gln Trp Leu Asp Asp Thr Val Gly Leu Ile Phe His Ser
         115   120   125

Phe Leu Leu Val Pro Tyr Phe Ser Trp Lys Tyr Ser His Arg Ser His
     130   135   140

His Ser Asn Thr Gly Ser Leu Glu Arg Asp Glu Val Phe Val Pro Lys
145   150   155   160

Lys Lys Ser Asp Ile Lys Trp Tyr Gly Lys Tyr Leu Asn Asn Pro Leu
                 165   170   175

Gly Arg Thr Val Met Leu Thr Val Gln Phe Thr Leu Gly Trp Pro Leu
             180   185   190

Tyr Leu Ala Phe Asn Val Ser Gly Arg Pro Tyr Asp Gly Gly Phe Arg
     195   200   205

Cys His Phe His Pro Asn Ala Pro Ile Tyr Asn Asp Arg Glu Arg Leu
     210   215   220

Gln Ile Tyr Ile Ser Asp Ala Gly Ile Leu Ala Val Cys Tyr Gly Leu
225   230   235   240

```
Phe Arg Tyr Ala Ala Gly Gln Gly Val Ala Ser Met Val Cys Phe Tyr
            245             250             255

Gly Val Pro Leu Leu Ile Val Asn Gly Phe Leu Val Leu Ile Thr Tyr
            260             265             270

Leu Gln His Thr His Pro Ser Leu Pro His Tyr Asp Ser Ser Glu Trp
            275             280             285

Asp Trp Phe Arg Gly Ala Leu Ala Thr Val Asp Arg Asp Tyr Gly Ile
    290             295             300

Leu Asn Lys Val Phe His Asn Ile Thr Asp Thr His Val Ala His His
305             310             315             320

Pro Phe Ser Thr Met Pro His Tyr His Ala Met Glu Ala Thr Lys Ala
            325             330             335

Ile Lys Pro Ile Leu Gly Glu Tyr Tyr Gln Phe Asp Gly Thr Pro Val
            340             345             350

Val Lys Ala Met Trp Arg Glu Ala Lys Glu Cys Ile Tyr Val Glu Pro
        355             360             365

Asp Arg Gln Gly Glu Lys Lys Gly Val Phe Trp Tyr Asn Asn Lys Leu
    370             375             380
```

```
(2)     INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:

   (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
         (A)  LENGTH:  1155 base pairs
         (B)  TYPE:  nucleic acid
         (C)  STRANDEDNESS:  single
         (D)  TOPOLOGY:  linear

  (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE:  DNA

 (iii)   HYPOTHETICAL:  NO

  (iv)   ANTI-SENSE:  NO

  (vi)   ORIGINAL SOURCE:
         (A)  ORGANISM:  Brassica napus

 (vii)   IMMEDIATE SOURCE:
         (B)  CLONE:  IMC Q508

  (ix)   FEATURE:
         (D)  OTHER INFORMATION:  T to A transversion
                                  mutation at nucleotide 515
                                  of the F form
```

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

```
ATG GGT GCA GGT GGA AGA ATG CAA GTG TCT CCT CCC TCC AAG AAG TCT        48
Met Gly Ala Gly Gly Arg Met Gln Val Ser Pro Pro Ser Lys Lys Ser
 1               5                   10                  15

GAA ACC GAC ACC ATC AAG CGC GTA CCC TGC GAG ACA CCG CCC TTC ACT        96
Glu Thr Asp Thr Ile Lys Arg Val Pro Cys Glu Thr Pro Pro Phe Thr
                20                  25                  30

GTC GGA GAA CTC AAG AAA GCA ATC CCA CCG CAC TGT TTC AAA CGC TCG       144
Val Gly Glu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ile Pro Pro His Cys Phe Lys Arg Ser
            35                  40                  45

ATC CCT CGC TCT TTC TCC TAC CTC ATC TGG GAC ATC ATC ATA GCC TCC       192
Ile Pro Arg Ser Phe Ser Tyr Leu Ile Trp Asp Ile Ile Ile Ala Ser
            50                  55          '60

TGC TTC TAC TAC GTC GCC ACC ACT TAC TTC CCT CTC CTC CCT CAC CCT       240
Cys Phe Tyr Tyr Val Ala Thr Thr Tyr Phe Pro Leu Leu Pro His Pro
 65                  70                  75                  80

CTC TCC TAC TTC GCC TGG CCT CTC TAC TGG GCC TGC CAA GGG TGC GTC       288
Leu Ser Tyr Phe Ala Trp Pro Leu Tyr Trp Ala Cys Gln Gly Cys Val
                85                  90                  95

CTA ACC GGC GTC TGG GTC ATA GCC CAC GAG TGC GGC CAC CAC GCC TTC       336
Leu Thr Gly Val Trp Val Ile Ala His Glu Cys Gly His His Ala Phe
                100                 105                 110

AGC GAC TAC CAG TGG CTT GAC GAC ACC GTC GGT CTC ATC TTC CAC TCC       384
Ser Asp Tyr Gln Trp Leu Asp Asp Thr Val Gly Leu Ile Phe His Ser
            115                 120                 125

TTC CTC CTC GTC CCT TAC TTC TCC TGG AAG TAC AGT CAT CGC AGC CAC       432
Phe Leu Leu Val Pro Tyr Phe Ser Trp Lys Tyr Ser His Arg Ser His
            130                 135                 140

CAT TCC AAC ACT GGC TCC CTC GAG AGA GAC GAA GTG TTT GTC CCC AAG       480
His Ser Asn Thr Gly Ser Leu Glu Arg Asp Glu Val Phe Val Pro Lys
145                 150                 155                 160

AAG AAG TCA GAC ATC AAG TGG TAC GGC AAG TAC CAC AAC AAC CCT TTG       528
Lys Lys Ser Asp Ile Lys Trp Tyr Gly Lys Tyr His Asn Asn Pro Leu
                165                 170                 175

GGA CGC ACC GTG ATG TTA ACG GTT CAG TTC ACT CTC GGC TGG CCG TTG       576
Gly Arg Thr Val Met Leu Thr Val Gln Phe Thr Leu Gly Trp Pro Leu
            180                 185                 190

TAC TTA GCC TTC AAC GTC TCG GGA AGA CCT TAC GAC GGC GGC TTC CGT       624
Tyr Leu Ala Phe Asn Val Ser Gly Arg Pro Tyr Asp Gly Gly Phe Arg
            195                 200                 205
```

```
        TGC CAT TTC CAC CCC AAC GCT CCC ATC TAC AAC GAC CGC GAG CGT CTC        672
        Cys His Phe His Pro Asn Ala Pro Ile Tyr Asn Asp Arg Glu Arg Leu
            210                 215                 220

        CAG ATA TAC ATC TCC GAC GCT GGC ATC CTC GCC GTC TGC TAC GGT CTC        720
        Gln Ile Tyr Ile Ser Asp Ala Gly Ile Leu Ala Val Cys Tyr Gly Leu
        225                 230                 235                 240

        TTC CGT TAC GCC GCC GGC CAG GGA GTG GCC TCG ATG GTC TGC TTC TAC        768
        Phe Arg Tyr Ala Ala Gly Gln Gly Val Ala Ser Met Val Cys Phe Tyr
                        245                 250                 255

        GGA GTC CCG CTT CTG ATT GTC AAT GGT TTC CTC GTG TTG ATC ACT TAC        816
        Gly Val Pro Leu Leu Ile Val Asn Gly Phe Leu Val Leu Ile Thr Tyr
                        260                 265                 270

        TTG CAG CAC ACG CAT CCT TCC CTG CCT CAC TAC GAT TCG TCC GAG TGG        864
        Leu Gln His Thr His Pro Ser Leu Pro His Tyr Asp Ser Ser Glu Trp
                        275                 280                 285

        GAT TGG TTC AGG GGA GCT TTG GCT ACC GTT GAC AGA GAC TAC GGA ATC        912
        Asp Trp Phe Arg Gly Ala Leu Ala Thr Val Asp Arg Asp Tyr Gly Ile
                        290                 295                 300

        TTG AAC AAG GTC TTC CAC AAT ATT ACC GAC ACG CAC GTG GCC CAT CAT        960
        Leu Asn Lys Val Phe His Asn Ile Thr Asp Thr His Val Ala His His
        305                 310                 315                 320

        CCG TTC TCC ACG ATG CCG CAT TAT CAC GCG ATG GAA GCT ACC AAG GCG       1008
        Pro Phe Ser Thr Met Pro His Tyr His Ala Met Glu Ala Thr Lys Ala
                        325                 330                 335

        ATA AAG CCG ATA CTG GGA GAG TAT TAT CAG TTC GAT GGG ACG CCG GTG       1056
        Ile Lys Pro Ile Leu Gly Glu Tyr Tyr Gln Phe Asp Gly Thr Pro Val
                        340                 345                 350

        GTT AAG GCG ATG TGG AGG GAG GCG AAG GAG TGT ATC TAT GTG GAA CCG       1104
        Val Lys Ala Met Trp Arg Glu Ala Lys Glu Cys Ile Tyr Val Glu Pro
                        355                 360                 365

        GAC AGG CAA GGT GAG AAG AAA GGT GTG TTC TGG TAC AAC AAT AAG TTA T     1153
        Asp Arg Gln Gly Glu Lys Lys Gly Val Phe Trp Tyr Asn Asn Lys Leu
            370                 375                 380

        GA                                                                   1155
```

(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:8:

   (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
      (A)   LENGTH: 384 amino acids
      (B)   TYPE: amino acid
      (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

   (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:8:

```
Met Gly Ala Gly Gly Arg Met Gln Val Ser Pro Pro Ser Lys Lys Ser
 1               5                  10                  15

Glu Thr Asp Thr Ile Lys Arg Val Pro Cys Glu Thr Pro Pro Phe Thr
             20                  25                  30

Val Gly Glu Leu Lys Lys Ala Ile Pro Pro His Cys Phe Lys Arg Ser
             35                  40                  45

Ile Pro Arg Ser Phe Ser Tyr Leu Ile Trp Asp Ile Ile Ile Ala Ser
         50                  55                  60

Cys Phe Tyr Tyr Val Ala Thr Thr Tyr Phe Pro Leu Leu Pro His Pro
 65                  70                  75                  80

Leu Ser Tyr Phe Ala Trp Pro Leu Tyr Trp Ala Cys Gln Gly Cys Val
                 85                  90                  95

Leu Thr Gly Val Trp Val Ile Ala His Glu Cys Gly His His Ala Phe
             100                 105                 110

Ser Asp Tyr Gln Trp Leu Asp Asp Thr Val Gly Leu Ile Phe His Ser
         115                 120                 125

Phe Leu Leu Val Pro Tyr Phe Ser Trp Lys Tyr Ser His Arg Ser His
     130                 135                 140

His Ser Asn Thr Gly Ser Leu Glu Arg Asp Glu Val Phe Val Pro Lys
145                 150                 155                 160

Lys Lys Ser Asp Ile Lys Trp Tyr Gly Lys Tyr His Asn Asn Pro Leu
                 165                 170                 175

Gly Arg Thr Val Met Leu Thr Val Gln Phe Thr Leu Gly Trp Pro Leu
             180                 185                 190

Tyr Leu Ala Phe Asn Val Ser Gly Arg Pro Tyr Asp Gly Gly Phe Arg
         195                 200                 205

Cys His Phe His Pro Asn Ala Pro Ile Tyr Asn Asp Arg Glu Arg Leu
     210                 215                 220

Gln Ile Tyr Ile Ser Asp Ala Gly Ile Leu Ala Val Cys Tyr Gly Leu
225                 230                 235                 240

Phe Arg Tyr Ala Ala Gly Gln Gly Val Ala Ser Met Val Cys Phe Tyr
             245                 250                 255

Gly Val Pro Leu Leu Ile Val Asn Gly Phe Leu Val Leu Ile Thr Tyr
             260                 265                 270

Leu Gln His Thr His Pro Ser Leu Pro His Tyr Asp Ser Ser Glu Trp
         275                 280                 285
```

```
Asp Trp Phe Arg Gly Ala Leu Ala Thr Val Asp Arg Asp Tyr Gly Ile
    290                 295                 300
```

```
Leu Asn Lys Val Phe His Asn Ile Thr Asp Thr His Val Ala His His
305                 310                 315                 320
```

```
Pro Phe Ser Thr Met Pro His Tyr His Ala Met Glu Ala Thr Lys Ala
                325                 330                 335
```

```
Ile Lys Pro Ile Leu Gly Glu Tyr Tyr Gln Phe Asp Gly Thr Pro Val
            340                 345                 350
```

```
Val Lys Ala Met Trp Arg Glu Ala Lys Glu Cys Ile Tyr Val Glu Pro
        355                 360                 365
```

```
Asp Arg Gln Gly Glu Lys Lys Gly Val Phe Trp Tyr Asn Asn Lys Leu
    370                 375                 380
```

(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:9:

  (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
          (A)   LENGTH: 23 base pairs
          (B)   TYPE: nucleic acid
          (C)   STRANDEDNESS: single
          (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

 (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

 (xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:9:

CATGGGTGCA GGTGGAAGAA TGC   23

(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:10:

  (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
          (A)   LENGTH: 21 base pairs
          (B)   TYPE: nucleic acid
          (C)   STRANDEDNESS: single
          (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

 (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

 (xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:10:

GTTTCTTCTT TGCTTCATAA C   21

(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:11:

  (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
          (A)   LENGTH: 23 base pairs
          (B)   TYPE: nucleic acid
          (C)   STRANDEDNESS: single
          (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

 (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

34

(xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:11:

CATGGGTGCA GGTGGAAGAA TGC   23

(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:12:

  (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
         (A)   LENGTH: 21 base pairs
         (B)   TYPE: nucleic acid
         (C)   STRANDEDNESS: single
         (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

  (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:12:

TCTTTCACCA TCATCATATC C   21

(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:13:

  (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
         (A)   LENGTH: 19 base pairs
         (B)   TYPE: nucleic acid
         (C)   STRANDEDNESS: single
         (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

  (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:13:

GTCTGGGTCA TAGCCCACG   19

(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:14:

  (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
         (A)   LENGTH: 19 base pairs
         (B)   TYPE: nucleic acid
         (C)   STRANDEDNESS: single
         (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

  (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:14:

GTCTGGGTCA TAGCCCACA   19

(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:15:

  (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
         (A)   LENGTH: 17 base pairs
         (B)   TYPE: nucleic acid
         (C)   STRANDEDNESS: single
         (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

  (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:15:

CTGGGTCATA GCCCATG   17

(2)   INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:16:

    (i)   SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
        (A)   LENGTH: 17 base pairs
        (B)   TYPE: nucleic acid
        (C)   STRANDEDNESS: single
        (D)   TOPOLOGY: linear

    (ii)   MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

    (xi)   SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:16:

CTGGGTCATA GCCCACA   17

Claims

1.   A method for altering fatty acid composition in plant seeds, comprising the steps of:

    a) introducing a recombinant nucleic acid construct into a plant, said construct comprising at least one seed-specific regulatory sequence operably linked in sense orientation to a mutant delta-12 fatty acid desaturase gene encoding a protein having a mutation in a His-(Asp/Glu)-Cys-(Gly/Ala)-His amino acid region;
    b) obtaining progeny from said plant, said progeny producing seeds having said altered fatty acid composition; and
    c) producing seeds having said altered fatty acid composition.

2.   A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said altered fatty acid composition comprises a decreased level of linoleic acid.

3.   A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said altered fatty acid composition comprises from about 1.0% to about 10.0% linoleic acid, based on total fatty acid composition.

4.   A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said altered fatty acid composition comprises from about 69% to about 90% oleic acid, based on total fatty acid composition.

5.   A method for altering fatty acid composition in plant seeds, comprising the steps of:

    a) introducing a recombinant nucleic acid construct into a plant, said construct comprising at least one seed-specific regulatory sequence operably linked in sense orientation to a mutant delta-15 fatty acid desaturase gene encoding a protein having a mutation in a His-(Asp/Glu)-Cys-(Gly/Ala)-His amino acid region;
    b) obtaining progeny from said plant, said progeny producing seeds having said altered fatty acid composition; and
    c) producing seeds having said altered fatty acid composition.

6.   A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said altered fatty acid composition comprises decreased levels of α-linolenic acid.

7.   A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said construct comprises a full-length coding sequence of said mutant gene.

8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 , wherein the plant is a <u>Brassica</u> canola plant.

9. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein said mutant desaturase gene encodes a microsomal gene product.

10. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said mutant desaturase gene encoding said protein has a non-conservative amino acid substitution in said region.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said non-conservative amino acid substitution comprises the sequence His-Lys-Cys-Gly-His.

12. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein said mutant desaturase gene is derived from a <u>Brassica napus</u> plant.

13. A method for altering fatty acid composition in plant seeds wherein one or more recombinant nucleic acid constructs are introduced into said plant, said one or more constructs comprising:

    a) at least one seed-specific regulatory sequence operably linked in sense orientation to a mutant delta-12 fatty acid desaturase gene encoding a protein having a mutation in a His-(Asp/Glu)-Cys-(Gly/Ala)-His amino acid region, as defined in any one of claims 1 or 7 to 12; and
    b) at least one seed-specific regulatory sequence operably linked in sense orientation to a mutant delta-15 fatty acid desaturase gene encoding a protein having a mutation in a His-(Asp/Glu)-Cys-(Gly/Ala)-His amino acid region, as defined in any one of claims 2 or 7 to 12,

said mutant delta-12 and mutant delta-15 desaturase genes conferring altered fatty acid composition in seeds of said plant.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said altered fatty acid composition comprises from about 1.0% to about 10.0% linoleic acid and from about 1.0% to about 10.0% α-linolenic acid, based on total fatty acid composition.

15. A plant obtainable by the method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 14.

16. A plant cell obtainable by introduction of said recombinant nucleic acid construct as defined in any one of claims 1 to 14.

17. A plant cell of a plant as defined in claim 15.

18. A crushed seed produced by crushing the seeds obtainable by the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14.

19. A vegetable oil extracted from the crushed seeds as defined in claim 18.

20. A recombinant nucleic acid construct effective for altering fatty acid composition in seeds, wherein said construct is as defined in any one of claims 1 to 14.

21. A mutant delta-12 fatty acid desaturase comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:8 or a functionally equivalent variant, derivative or fragment thereof.

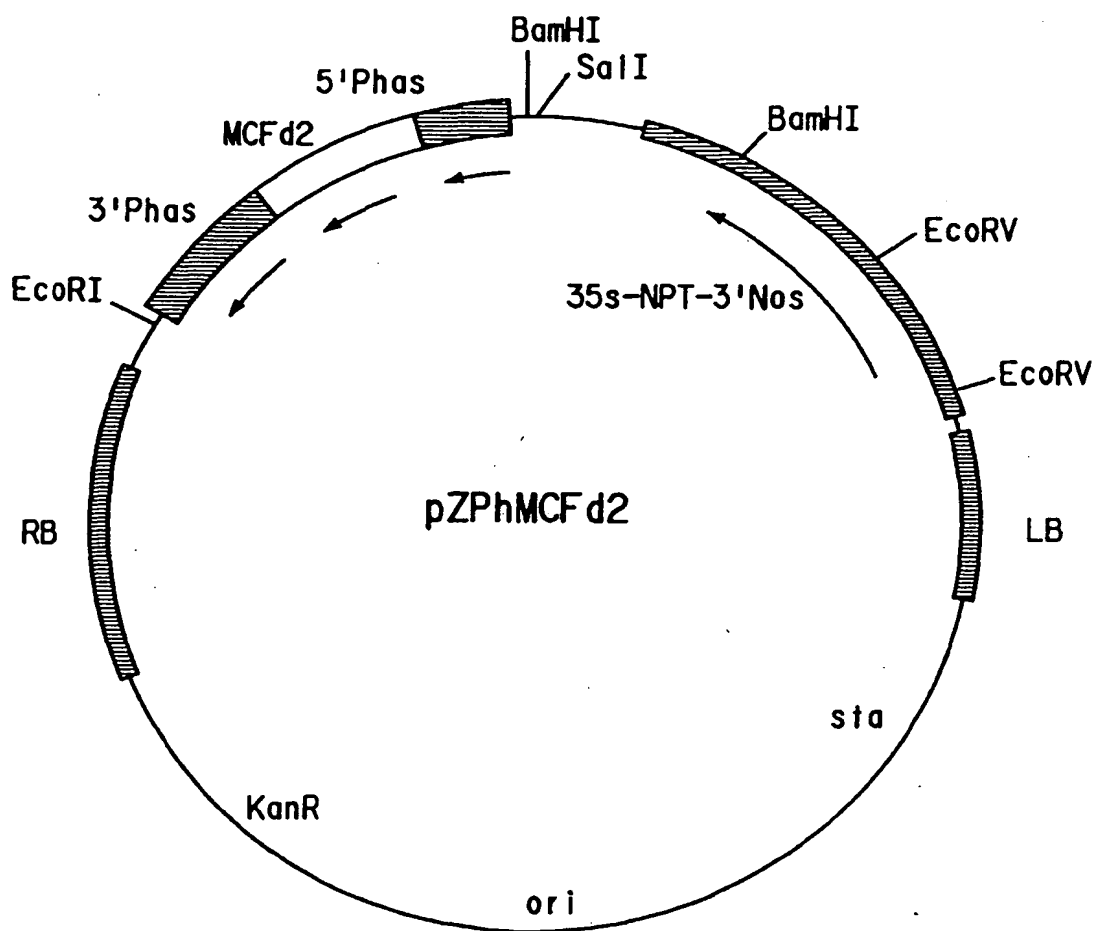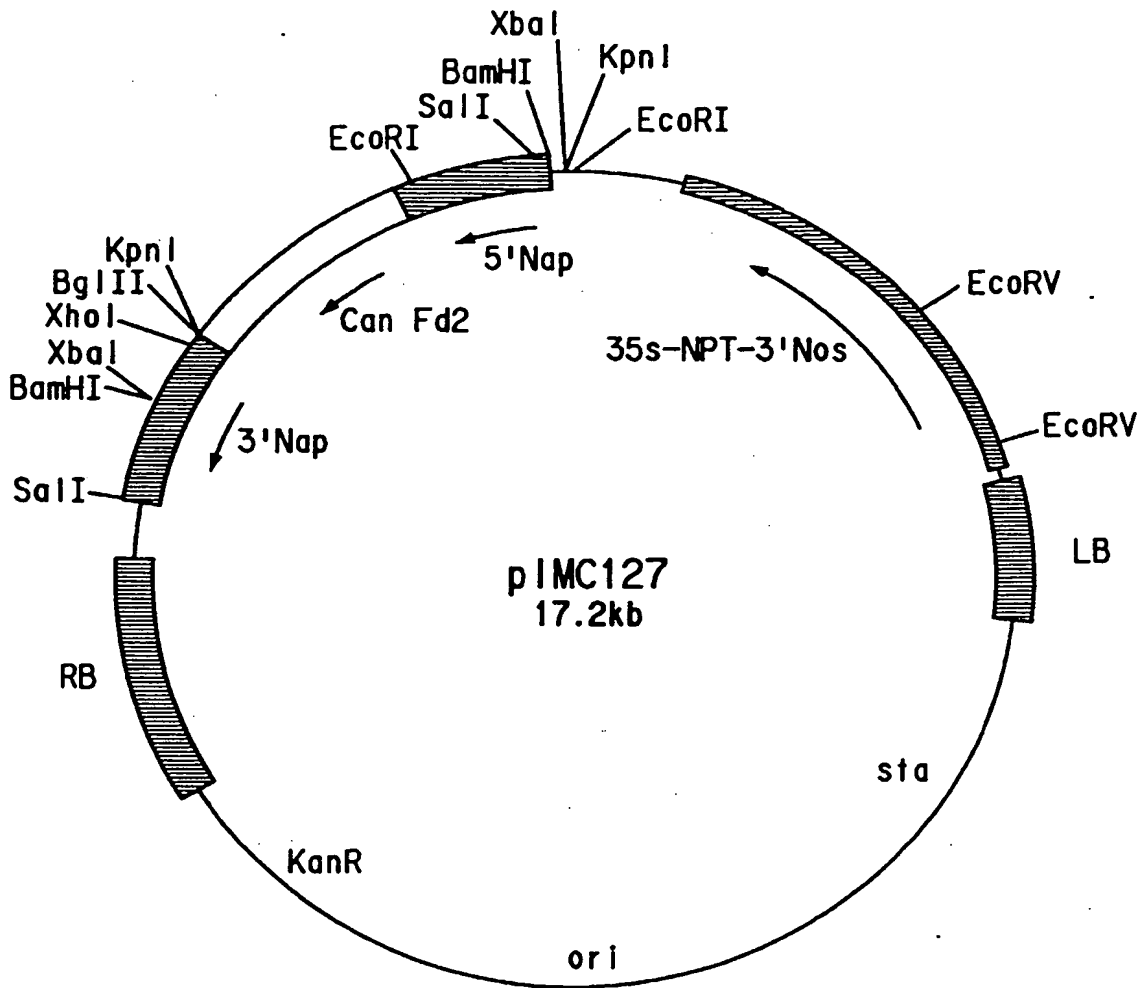22. A nucleic acid fragment encoding the mutant delta-12 fatty acid desaturase defined in claim 21.
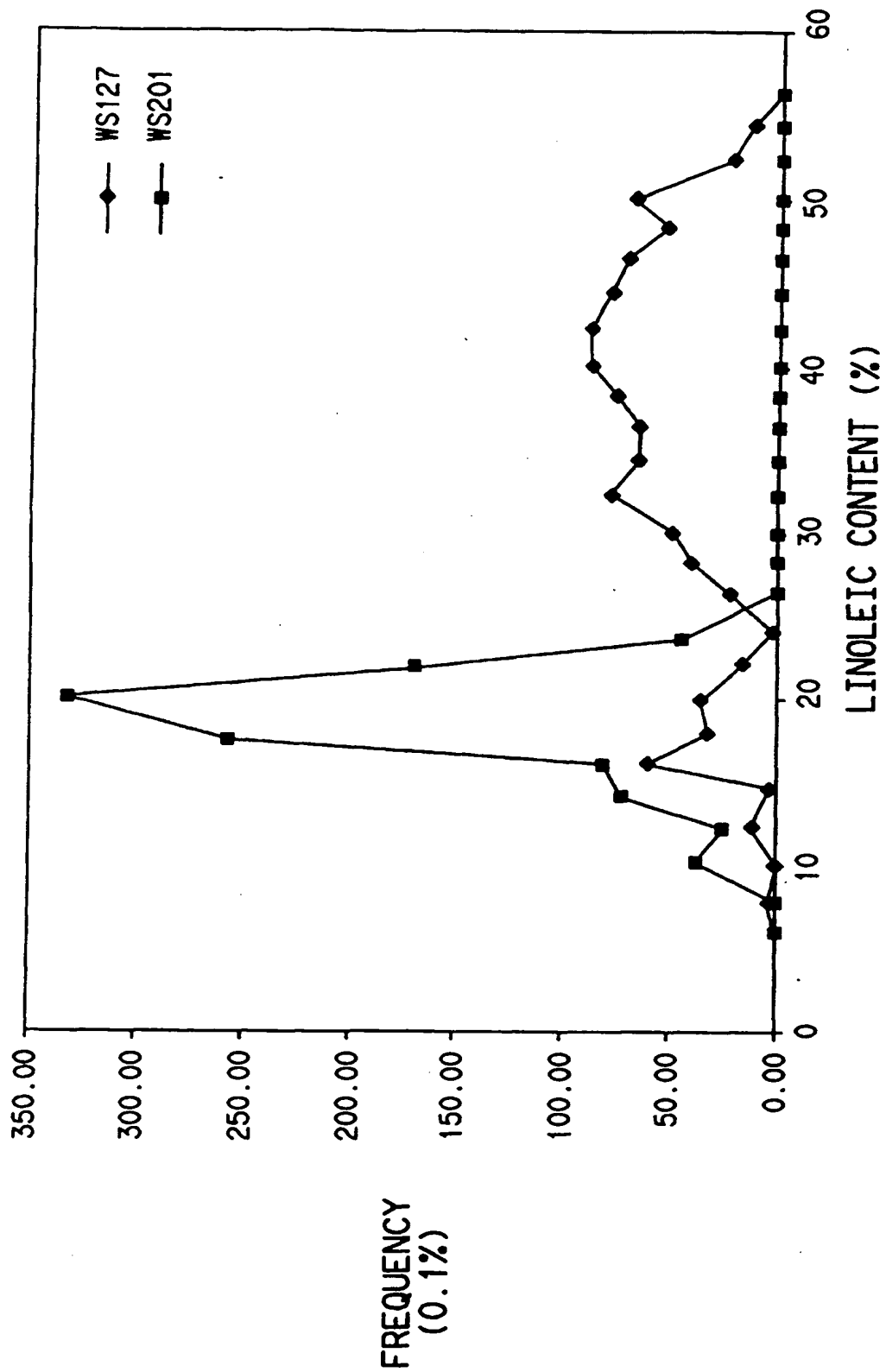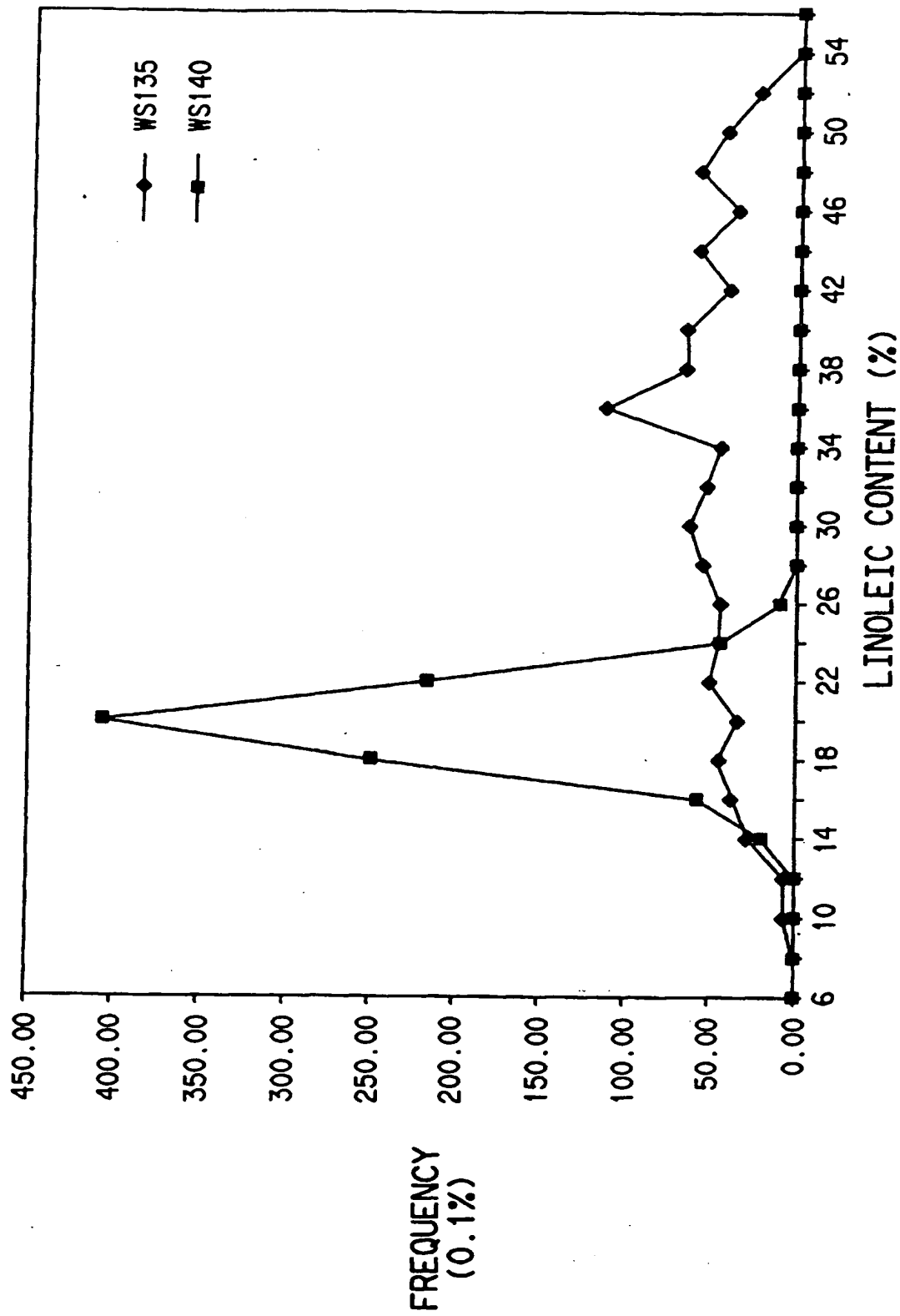
FIG.1

FIG.2

FIG.3

FIG. 4

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 98 30 2322

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	WO 97 30582 A (CARNEGIE INST OF WASHINGTON ;MONSANTO COMPANY INC (US); BROUN PIER) 28 August 1997	1,2,7,9, 10,13, 15-22	C12N15/82 C12N15/53 A01H5/00
Y	* page 64 - page 70, line 21; claims 1-34 *	5,6	C11B1/00
X	WO 97 21340 A (CARGILL INC ;DEBONTE R LORIN (US); FAN ZHEGONG (US); LOH H T WILLI) 19 June 1997	19-22	
Y	see sequence IDs 3,4,7,8, * page 60 - page 63 *	5,6	
X	CA 2 180 386 A (CARGILL INC) 4 January 1998 * the whole document *	18-22	
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A	* page 47, line 30 - page 53, line 10 *	1,5,13	

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	31 August 1998	Maddox, A

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European Patent Office	**EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**	Application Number EP 98 30 2322

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	BROUN, P., ET AL.: "A bifunctional oleate 12-hydroxylase: desaturase from Lesquerella fendleri" THE PLANT JOURNAL, vol. 13, no. 2, February 1998, pages 201-210, XP002075533 * the whole document *	1,13	
A	TOEPFER R ET AL: "MODIFICATION OF PLANT LIPID SYNTHESIS" SCIENCE, vol. 268, 5 May 1995, pages 681-685, XP002014017 * page 682, column 3 - page 683, column 1 *	1,5,13	
A	WO 97 47731 A (DU PONT ;KINNEY ANTHONY J (US); FADER GARY MICHAEL (US)) 18 December 1997 * example 2 *	1	
A	SHANKLIN, J., ET AL.: "Eight histidine residues are ctalyticaly essential in a membrane-associated iron enzyme, stearoyl-CoA desaturase, and are conserved in alkane hydroxylase and xylene monooxygenase" BIOCHEMISTRY, vol. 33, 1994, pages 12787-12794, XP002075534 * figure 3 *	11	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	31 August 1998	Maddox, A

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	31 August 1998	Maddox, A

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